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# Galaxy And Mass Assembly (GAMA): mass–size relations of $z < 0.1$ galaxies subdivided by Sérsic index, colour and morphology

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## ABSTRACT

We use data from the Galaxy And Mass Assembly (GAMA) survey in the redshift range  $0.01 < z < 0.1$  (8399 galaxies in  $g$  to  $K_s$  bands) to derive the stellar mass–half-light radius relations for various divisions of ‘early’- and ‘late’-type samples. We find that the choice of division between early and late (i.e. colour, shape, morphology) is not particularly critical; however, the adopted mass limits and sample selections (i.e. the careful rejection of outliers and use of robust fitting methods) are important. In particular, we note that for samples extending to low stellar mass limits ( $< 10^{10} M_\odot$ ) the Sérsic index bimodality, evident for high-mass systems, becomes less distinct and no-longer acts as a reliable separator of early- and late-type systems. The final set of stellar mass–half-light radius relations are reported for a variety of galaxy population subsets in 10 bands ( $ugrizZYJHK_s$ ) and are intended to provide a comprehensive low- $z$  benchmark for the many ongoing high- $z$  studies. Exploring the variation of the stellar mass–half-light radius relations with wavelength, we confirm earlier findings that galaxies appear more compact at longer wavelengths albeit at a smaller level than previously noted: at  $10^{10} M_\odot$  both spiral systems and ellipticals show a decrease in size of 13 per cent from  $g$  to  $K_s$  (which is near linear in log wavelength). Finally, we note that the sizes used in this work are derived from 2D Sérsic light profile fitting (using GALFIT3), i.e. elliptical semimajor half-light radii, improving on earlier low- $z$  benchmarks based on circular apertures.

**Key words:** galaxies: elliptical and lenticular, cD – galaxies: formation – galaxies: fundamental parameters – galaxies: spiral – galaxies: statistics.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Galaxies have long been known to exhibit a correlation between their mass (or luminosity) and their size (or surface brightness). For example, early studies of spiral galaxies in nearby groups and clusters identified a strong luminosity–surface brightness relation, such that more luminous systems also have higher surface brightness (see reviews by Ferguson & Binggeli 1994 and Graham 2013). Fundamentally, this reflects the mean scaling of angular mo-

mentum with halo mass, which, in self-similar haloes, is such that the disc surface density increases monotonically as  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{halo}}^{1/3}$  (Fall & Efstathiou 1980; Dalcanton, Spergel & Summers 1997; Mo, Mao & White 1998; Obreschkow & Glazebrook 2014). The close connection between size (or surface brightness) and angular momentum makes systematic size measurements in galaxy surveys an exquisite test of evolutionary models (Fall 1983; Romanowsky & Fall 2012).

Over the past few decades, a number of notable observations have refined the empirical luminosity–surface brightness relation for distinct galaxy types (de Jong & Lacey 2000; Graham & Guzman 2003), environments (Cross et al. 2001; Andreon & Cuillandre 2002; Driver et al. 2005; Cappellari 2013) and at specific redshifts

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(Driver 1999; La Barbera et al. 2003; Trujillo et al. 2004, 2006, 2007; Barden et al. 2005; Trujillo, Carrasco & Ferré-Mateu 2012).

More recently, a growing number of authors choose to focus on the stellar mass–half-light radius relation (hereafter  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation; see e.g. Shen et al. 2003; Trujillo et al. 2004) instead of a luminosity–surface brightness relation. Albeit akin to one another, the former is arguably more meaningful as the luminosity–size relation depends on the observational wavelength band used and conversions are required to compare different data sets. However, detractors of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation may argue that this incorporates errors in the estimation of the stellar mass and that the inherent selection boundaries (mainly due to surface brightness selection effects; Disney 1976; Disney et al. 1995; Driver 1999) are less obvious in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  plane than in the luminosity–surface brightness plane (and often neglected altogether). For example, due to our inability to detect lower surface brightness sources at increasing redshifts only the more compact and most massive systems remain detectable, see e.g. Cameron & Driver (2007) who show the impact of the selection boundaries using *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) Ultra Deep Field data. Without due consideration of potential biases this becomes an important issue as differences between the high- and low-redshift  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations are readily attributed to physical evolution in galaxies.

A further, and more recent, concern is that the measured size of a galaxy also depends on the wavelength at which the observation has been made. This has been known for some time (e.g. Evans 1994; Cunow 2001; La Barbera et al. 2002), but quantified more robustly for red and/or blue systems in La Barbera et al. (2010), Kelvin et al. (2012), Häussler et al. (2013) and Vulcani et al. (2014), who find a strong size–wavelength relation, such that galaxies are often measured to be as little as half the size in the  $K$  band when compared with the  $r$  band. This is as crucial as the problems with the completeness discussed above. If one wishes to measure and compare the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation from different data sets or from different epochs, care must be taken to define the relation at the same rest-frame wavelength or to apply a size bandpass correction (see Kelvin et al. 2012, fig. 22). The cause of the size–wavelength trend (discussed in Kelvin et al. 2012; Vulcani et al. 2014) is not entirely clear, but is argued to arise from a combination of:

- (i) the dust distribution, which preferentially blocks the central regions of galaxies (see for example the predictions by Möllenhoff, Popescu & Tuffs 2006; Pastrav et al. 2013);
- (ii) the inside-out growth of galaxies (where young bright stellar populations are more widely distributed than the old stellar populations; La Barbera et al. 2010);
- (iii) the two-component nature of many of the brightest galaxies (which consists of an old centrally concentrated bulge superimposed on a young more diffuse disc, i.e. the bulge is more evident in the  $K$  band while the disc is more evident in the  $r$  band; see Driver et al. 2007a,b);
- (iv) and, to a much lesser degree, any metallicity gradients which may also exist (La Barbera et al. 2010).

Over the past decade observations of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation, particularly of early-type massive systems, have been made across a broad range of epochs using the high-resolution imaging of the Advanced Camera for Surveys, the Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 or the Wide Field Camera 3 onboard the *HST*. These measurements, initially only made for the most massive ( $> 10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) systems, have been compared to the local Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) relation measured by Shen et al. (2003) for both red and blue, concentrated and diffuse systems. The results to-date provide an intriguing

yet consistent picture of significant size growth from  $z > 1.5$  to  $z = 0.0$  with minimal mass increase (e.g. Ferguson et al. 2004; Daddi et al. 2005; Trujillo et al. 2006; Longhetti et al. 2007; van Dokkum et al. 2008). These initial results have been corroborated by extensive studies which continue to identify a clear disconnect between the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation of nearby galaxies and those at intermediate to high redshift (McIntosh et al. 2005; Trujillo et al. 2007; Buitrago et al. 2008; van der Wel et al. 2008; Damjanov et al. 2009; Williams, Bureau & Cappellari 2010; Bruce et al. 2012). The current data, mostly confined to massive early-type systems, seem to suggest that galaxies have grown by a factor of 5 in size since  $z \sim 2$  with minimal change in mass. By contrast, the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  evolution of disc systems is traced at lower redshift ( $z \lesssim 1$ ) and appears less dramatic, evolving by roughly a factor of 2 (see for example Barden et al. 2005; Sargent et al. 2007; Buitrago et al. 2008; van Dokkum et al. 2013). A number of physical and non-physical explanations have been put forward to explain the observed  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  evolution of the early types. These include, for example, major and minor mergers or gas accretion and disc growth as physical effects, see e.g. Driver et al. (2013) and also Graham (2013) who suggest that the compact galaxies at high- $z$  are the naked bulges of lower- $z$  systems. Some evidence for this scenario is suggested by the compact massive bulges evident in nearby early-type galaxies seen by Dullo & Graham (2013). Non-physical and systematic effects may include various selection biases, as well as erroneous estimations of mass and size (see e.g. Hopkins et al. 2009 and references therein).

Finally it is important to note that the often used redshift zero  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation of Shen et al. (2003) measures sizes in the  $z$  band and uses a Sérsic index cut to divide the galaxy sample into early and late types. We have already discussed the wavelength-dependent size of galaxies, but another caveat is the definition of early/late type. Commonly colour, concentration (i.e. Sérsic index) or morphology are used interchangeably, but even though there is a correlation these definitions are not synonymous (Robotham et al. 2013), for example low-luminosity elliptical galaxies can have Sérsic indices of  $n < 2.5$  (e.g. Graham & Guzman 2003 and references therein). Hence, when comparing the local  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation to other data sets due consideration should be given to the necessary correction of the wavelength-dependent sizes of galaxies and the method used to separate the sample into early and late type.

In this paper, we provide a comprehensive recalibration of the local  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation, divided into early- and late-type galaxies, according to various criteria which include: Sérsic index, colour, a joint Sérsic index–colour cut and galaxy visual morphology. Due to the similarity between the morphology-dependent mass–size relation and the fundamental mass–spin–morphology relation (Cappellari et al. 2011; Romanowsky & Fall 2012; Obreschkow & Glazebrook 2014), this work lays the foundations for approximate studies of angular momentum scalings in a large local sample with well-characterized completeness. We will expand this idea in sequel work. In addition, for comparison between different redshifts, we derive the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in a consistent manner for 10 imaging bands (*ugrizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>*).

Throughout this paper, we use data derived from the Galaxy And Mass Assembly (GAMA) survey (Driver et al. 2011; Liske et al. 2014) with stellar mass estimates as described in Taylor et al. (2011), half-light radii derived from 2D Sérsic light profile fitting as described in Kelvin et al. (2012) and for a cosmology given by a  $\Lambda$  cold dark matter universe with:

$$\Omega_m = 0.3, \quad \Omega_\Lambda = 0.7 \text{ and } H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}.$$

## 2 DATA

In this section, we briefly describe the GAMA data (Section 2.1), the derived stellar masses (Section 2.2), galaxy sizes (Section 2.3) and the sample selection (Section 2.4) used in this paper.

### 2.1 The GAMA survey

The GAMA survey is an optical spectroscopic and multiwavelength imaging survey combining the data of several ground and space based telescopes (Driver et al. 2011). It is an intermediate survey in respect to depth and survey area (see Baldry et al. 2010, fig. 1) and thus fits in between low redshift, wide-field surveys such as SDSS (York et al. 2000) or 2dFGRS (Colless et al. 2003) and narrow deep field surveys like zCOSMOS (Lilly et al. 2007 and see Davies et al. 2014) or DEEP-2 (Davis et al. 2003).

In this paper, we are selecting data from the GAMA II (see the second data release paper; Liske et al. 2014) equatorial regions, which are centred on 9h (G09), 12h (G12) and 14.5h (G15). The three regions are  $12 \times 5 \text{ deg}^2$  and have a  $r$ -band Petrosian magnitude limit of  $r < 19.8 \text{ mag}$ . The spectroscopic target selection is derived from a SDSS DR 7 (Abazajian et al. 2009) input catalogue and we reach a spectroscopic completeness of  $\geq 98$  per cent for the main survey targets. The available survey bands include SDSS DR7 ( $ugriz$  bands), UKIDSS LAS DR6 and DR8 ( $YJHK_s$  bands; Lawrence et al. 2007) and VISTA (Visible and Infrared Telescope for Astronomy) Kilo-degree INfrared Galaxy survey (VIKING) data ( $ZYJHK_s$  bands; Edge et al. 2013 and also see Driver et al., in preparation for more details on the GAMA processing of the VIKING data). All imaging data have matched aperture photometry (Hill et al. 2011; Liske et al. 2014) and the spectroscopic redshifts (Baldry et al. 2014; Liske et al. 2014) are based on spectra taken with AAOmega (resolution of  $R \sim 1300$ ) at the 3.9 m Anglo-Australian Telescope (Hopkins et al. 2013) located at Siding Spring Observatory (NSW, Australia).

### 2.2 Stellar masses

The stellar mass estimates for GAMA are described in Taylor et al. (2011) and are based on synthetic stellar population models from the BC03 library (Bruzual & Charlot 2003) with a Chabrier (2003) initial mass function and the Calzetti et al. (2000) dust obscuration law.

The stellar masses are estimated from the best-fitting broad-band spectral energy distributions (SEDs), which are generated using stellar population synthesis modelling and compared to observed GAMA SEDs in a fixed rest-frame wavelength range from 3000 to 11 000 Å (roughly  $u$  to  $J$  band, depending on the redshift of the source).

It is important to note that no further near-infrared (NIR) photometry is used for the stellar mass estimates. The colour–colour space in the NIR cannot be adequately sampled with little present metallicity which makes the modelling of the NIR SEDs difficult. In addition, there may be a problem with the NIR data which in the original analysis Taylor et al. (2011) led to the exclusion of the entire available NIR data.

Here, we are using the stellar masses v16 catalogue and the stellar masses, based on aperture matched photometry, are believed to be accurate to within a factor of 2.

Additionally, we apply the ‘fluxscale’ parameter, given in the catalogue, to our masses to correct for aperture sizes. Since the GAMA SEDs are derived from matched aperture photometry, which is based

on the SExtractor AUTO magnitudes, integrated quantities such as the stellar mass need an aperture correction to account for the mass that lies outside the fixed AUTO aperture. The fluxscale parameter is the ratio between the  $r$ -band AUTO flux and the total flux of a source derived from its  $10R_e$  truncated Sérsic profile.

### 2.3 Galaxy sizes and Sérsic index

The galaxy sizes (i.e. the effective major axis half-light radius) are based on single Sérsic 2D model fits to the data in 10 bands ( $ugrizZYJHK_s$ ; see Kelvin et al. 2012 for details on the fitting pipeline). The original Sérsic profile fitting used imaging data obtained from SDSS DR7 and UKIDSS LAS, which were reprocessed and scaled to a single zero-point and then mosaicked with SWARP (Bertin et al. 2002) at a resolution of 0.339 arcsec (see Hill et al. 2011 and Driver et al., in preparation). The VIKING data are handled in a similar way to the UKIDSS data, i.e. scaled to the same zero-point and ‘swarped’ with a pixel resolution of 0.339 arcsec (Driver et al., in preparation). The mosaics along with the GAMA input catalogue are fed into SIGMA (Structural Investigation of Galaxies via Model Analysis; Kelvin et al. 2012) an automated front-end wrapper which uses a range of image analysis software (such as Source Extractor, Bertin & Arnouts 1996; PSF Extractor, Bertin 2013 and GALFIT3, Peng et al. 2010), as well as logical filters and other handlers to carry out bulk analysis on the input catalogue.

The final output of SIGMA provides values for Sérsic index, effective half-light radius, position angle, ellipticity and magnitude (defined according to the AB magnitude system). Here, we are using the pre-release of version 9 of the Sérsic fits catalogue and we have opted to use the VIKING  $ZYJHK_s$  fitting results instead of the UKIDSS  $YJHK$  results. The improved imaging quality of the VIKING data allows for more robust Sérsic light profile fitting (Andrews et al. 2014), which in turn means that our  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits in the  $ZYJHK_s$  bands are also more robust.

### 2.4 Sample selection

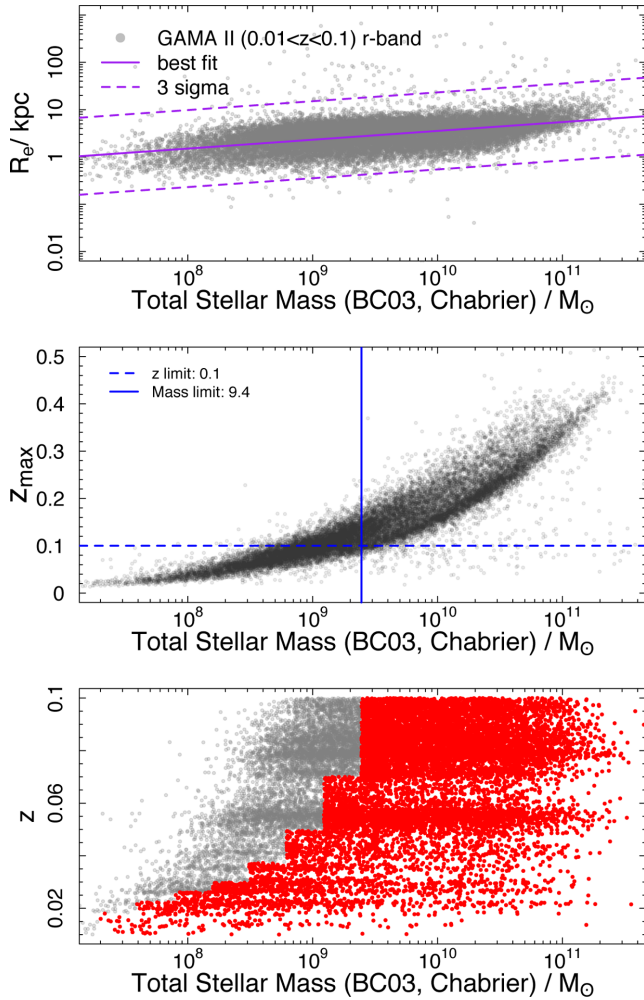
In this work, we selected galaxies from the GAMA equatorial regions in the redshift range of  $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.1$  with redshift qualities  $nQ \geq 3$ ,<sup>1</sup>  $\text{vis\_class!} = 3$ <sup>2</sup> and magnitudes  $r < 19.8 \text{ mag}$  for G09, G12 and G15.

The top panel in Fig. 1 shows the distribution of the half-light radius versus the galaxy stellar masses for the entire sample of 20 287 objects in the  $r$  band, the solid line is a least-squares fit to the data and the dashed lines indicate the  $3\sigma$  spread; outliers are defined as being more than  $3\sigma$  from the best fit. A visual inspection of all 241 outliers showed that most of these galaxies were close to bright stars which contaminated the flux measurements, consequently these galaxies were removed from the sample. In addition, galaxies with unrealistic fitting parameters such as Sérsic indices ( $n \leq 0.3$  or  $n \geq 10$ ) and sizes ( $R_e < 0.5 \times \text{FWHM}$ ) were also excluded from the sample. After the exclusion of the outliers, unrealistic and failed fits the  $r$ -band ‘good fit’ sample consists of 18 795 galaxies and is referred to as GAMAmid hereafter. All other bands

<sup>1</sup> Spectra with an  $nQ$  flag of 3 and higher have good quality redshifts with probabilities  $p(z) > 0.9$  and can be used for scientific analysis (Liske et al. 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Sources with  $\text{vis\_class} = 3$  are classed as ‘not a target’ since they are not the main part of a galaxy.





**Figure 1.** Top: the stellar mass and (major axis) half-light radius distribution of the sample extracted from the GAMA catalogue with all galaxies in the redshift range between  $0.01 < z < 0.1$  as grey dots, the solid purple line shows an initial least-squares fit to the entire data set and the dashed lines indicate the  $3\sigma$  scatter. Galaxies more than  $3\sigma$  away from the best fit are excluded from the final data set. Middle: the stellar mass distribution versus maximum redshift ( $z_{\max}$ ) at which the galaxy can be seen for the limiting Petrosian magnitude of  $r = 19.8$  mag. The black points show the GAMA II sample, the dashed line indicates the adopted upper redshift limit of the sample ( $z = 0.1$ ) and the solid line shows the calculated mass limit for which 97.7 per cent of the galaxies have a  $z_{\max}$  above the indicated redshift limit. Bottom: the stellar mass distribution versus redshift for the GAMA II sample shown in grey and the staggered volume-limited sample highlighted in red. Each mass bin has an associated weight that is used to weight each galaxy within the respective bin.

are treated the same way to establish the ‘good fit’ sample which is shown in Table 1.

For each galaxy in our sample, Taylor et al. (2011) calculated the maximum redshift ( $z_{\max}$ ) to which this object could be detected given its best-fitting spectral template and an apparent  $r$ -band Petrosian magnitude of 19.8 mag, the limiting magnitude of the GAMA-II data release. To establish the lower mass limit for a volume-limited sample, we check which galaxies are visible at or beyond the adopted upper redshift limit (i.e.  $z_{\max} > 0.1$ ).

The middle panel of Fig. 1 shows the stellar mass distribution versus  $z_{\max}$  based on each galaxy’s spectral shape and our  $r$ -band magnitude limit. The blue dashed horizontal line shows the redshift

**Table 1.** From left to right, we show the volume-limited sample size in each band after outliers, bad and failed fits have been removed; the colour-unbiased sample size (i.e. number of galaxies above the mass limit) and the final sample size after the staggered volume-limited selection is implemented. The last two rows show the final common sample, excluding and including the  $u$  band, respectively. These are based on all galaxies common in all bands within the staggered volume-limited samples and are used for the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation analysis.

Band	0.01 $\leq z \leq 0.1$ sample size		
	Volume limited	Colour unbiased	Staggered volume limited
$u$	10 830	6904	8343
$g$	18 321	9555	11 813
$r$	18 795	9751	12 037
$i$	18 445	9619	11 887
$z$	15 558	9227	11 193
$Z$	18 214	9373	11 602
$Y$	18 140	9411	11 621
$J$	18 764	9730	11 993
$H$	17 626	9296	11 449
$K_s$	17 790	9434	11 581
Common excl. $u$	–	–	8399
Common incl. $u$	–	–	6154

limit of  $z = 0.1$  and the solid vertical line indicates the lower mass limit for the sample set at the 97.7 per cent level, i.e. of all the galaxies above the mass limit 97.7 per cent can be seen at or beyond the chosen redshift limit. This results in a lower mass limit of  $\mathcal{M}_{\lim} = 2.5 \times 10^9 M_\odot$  to ensure a colour-unbiased sample of 9751 galaxies.

However, using this mass limit means we would discard  $\sim 50$  per cent of our data, so in order to include lower mass galaxies we use a staggered volume- and mass-limited selection. To implement this staggered limit, we divide the galaxies below our mass limit into bins with size  $\Delta \log_{10}(\mathcal{M}_*) = 0.3$ . For each bin, we establish the expected maximum redshift at the lower mass end ( $z_{\text{bin}}$ ) which satisfies the completeness criterion. We then discard all galaxies with redshifts  $z > z_{\text{bin}}$ , the results can be seen in the bottom panel of Fig. 1.

The galaxies remaining within the bin are equally weighted by a common weight  $W_{\text{bin}}$  which is based on a  $V/V_{\max}$  of  $z_{\text{bin}}$ .

$V/V_{\max}$  is calculated by computing the ratio of the volume in which a galaxy is seen over the maximum volume in which the galaxy can be seen:

$$W_{\text{bin}} = \frac{V(z)}{V(z_{\max})}. \quad (1)$$

Here, we calculate  $V(z)$  using the redshift assigned to each bin and  $V_{\max}$  by setting the maximum redshift to be  $z_{\max} = z_{\lim} = 0.1$ . For the low-mass galaxies in our sample with  $M < M_{\lim}$ , we weight each galaxy according to the corresponding weight of the bin  $W_{\text{bin}}$  and for galaxies with  $M \geq M_{\lim}$  the weight is set to 1. This ensures that all galaxies within the staggered volume-limited sample get up-weighted and galaxies within the unbiased volume-limited sample are not penalized. Furthermore using the staggered volume-limited sample ensures that no single galaxy will overly influence the fitting routine because of a very large individual weight.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> An individual  $V/V_{\max}$  based on each galaxy’s  $z_{\max}$  can cause a few data points to skew the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation. We found this to be especially problematic in the case of the Sérsic cut early-type galaxies.

Treating each band in this way leads to similar volume-limited sample sizes ( $< 8$  per cent difference in samples), which confirms we observe essentially the same galaxy populations in each waveband. However, to ensure that we do not introduce any biases even within these small fluctuations, we have decided to establish a common set. This sample includes only those galaxies from our volume-limited sample that have good Sérsic profile fitting parameters in all bands except  $u$  (which is not considered here due to its poor imaging quality). This reduces our final sample to 8399 galaxies, which is used to fit the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation from  $g$  band to  $K_s$  band.

We additionally set up a second common sample which includes the  $u$ -band data, which reduces the final sample size to 6154 galaxies. This sample is only used to fit the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in the  $u$  band. We do this to ensure all the other bands are not penalized for the bad image quality in the  $u$  band. Hence, we do not include the  $u$ -band  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits in subsequent comparisons but present the results in Tables 2 and 3 for completeness.

### 3 $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ RELATIONS BY EARLY AND LATE TYPE

In this section, we derive  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations as a function of galaxy type. For this we divide the GAMAmid common sample into early and late types (see Fig. 2) according to the Sérsic index  $n$  (see Section 3.1), the dust corrected rest-frame  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  and  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colours (Section 3.2), a combined Sérsic index and  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour division (Section 3.3) and galaxy visual morphology (Section 3.4). In each section, early and late type is defined by the chosen separator and we strongly caution that this is not to be confused with actual elliptical or disc galaxy populations, except for Section 3.4 in which we split the population by visual morphology.

We fit all early- and late-type  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations using two functions motivated by (Shen et al. 2003, S03 hereafter) in order to directly compare with their work.

First a single-power-law function:

$$R_e = a \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}_*}{\mathcal{M}_\odot} \right)^b, \quad (2)$$

and secondly a combination of two power-law functions:

$$R_e = \gamma \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}_*}{\mathcal{M}_\odot} \right)^\alpha \left( 1 + \frac{\mathcal{M}_*}{\mathcal{M}_0} \right)^{\beta - \alpha}, \quad (3)$$

where  $R_e$  is the effective half-light radius in kpc,  $\mathcal{M}_*$  is the mass of the galaxy and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  (the breakpoint between the two power-law functions) can be considered an artificial transition mass between low- and high-mass galaxies (in units of  $\mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) in any given sample.

We use Bayesian inference with an Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) approach to find the expectation of parameters describing the data. For this we weight each data point by the  $V/V_{\text{max}}$  which is associated with the mass bin in which the data point lies (see previous section explaining the staggered volume-limited sample) and use uniform priors to perform our fitting.

Except for an upper limit on  $\mathcal{M}_0 < 10^{13} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ , we do not restrict any parameters in equations (2) and (3) during the fitting process and caution that the resulting regression lines should be considered (if possible) only within the mass range for which they were fit. The fitting is performed on the entire sample and median data points shown in our figures are for visualization only (Fig. 3, as well as the figures in the appendix).

We have also calculated the regions in which our data become less reliable and show these as shaded areas in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation

plots (Figs 3 and A1–A9). In total, we define the three boundaries (following Driver 1999).

#### (i) The minimum size boundary

This area indicates where the star–galaxy separation becomes difficult since the galaxies are only marginally resolved, i.e. they have  $R_e < 0.5 \times \text{FWHM}$ . Note that the lower boundary we plot shows the typical  $r$ -band size limit expected for the redshift ( $z_{\text{max}}$ ) in each mass bin using the average SDSS FWHM of 1.5 arcsec to calculate the equivalent radius in kpc. Please also note that this is not a hard lower limit and we check for each galaxy if its  $R_e$  is smaller than the FWHM of its image frame, this leads to galaxies being found within the (average) minimum size boundary.

#### (ii) The maximum size boundary

Due to the way sky subtraction and background noise is handled, galaxies that are very large run the risk of contributing to the sky background estimation and hence their sizes become questionable. This becomes a problem when a galaxy occupies 20 per cent of the pixels within the background sampling box<sup>4</sup> and in our case equates to an  $\text{FWHM} = 20$  arcsec. The corresponding size is calculated in kpc for all redshift bins. However, due to surface brightness considerations the maximum size boundary only comes into effect for very high mass galaxies.

#### (iii) Surface brightness boundary

Considering the  $r$ -band surface brightness ( $24.5 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$ ) and magnitude limit ( $19.8 \text{ mag}$ ) of the survey, we can derive an upper boundary at which galaxies become too large to be easily detected (i.e.  $\mu_{\text{eff}} \sim \mu_{\text{lim}}$ ).

First, we consider the surface brightness:

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = m + 2.5 \log_{10}(2\pi\theta^2), \quad (4)$$

where  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective surface brightness,  $m$  is the apparent magnitude and  $\theta$  is the angular size.

Then, we need to consider the apparent magnitude:

$$m = M_* + 5 \log_{10}(d_l) + 25 + k(z), \quad (5)$$

where  $M_*$  is the absolute magnitude,  $d_l$  is the luminosity distance in Mpc and  $k(z)$  is the  $K$ -correction.

Relating the absolute magnitude to solar units we find

$$M_* - M_\odot = -2.5 \log_{10} \left( \frac{L_*}{L_\odot} \right) = -2.5 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\frac{L_*}{\mathcal{M}_*} \mathcal{M}_*}{\frac{L_\odot}{\mathcal{M}_\odot} \mathcal{M}_\odot} \right), \quad (6)$$

where  $M_\odot$  is the absolute magnitude of the sun,  $L_*$  and  $L_\odot$  are the luminosity of the galaxy and the sun, respectively, and  $\mathcal{M}_*$  and  $\mathcal{M}_\odot$  are the corresponding masses.

Re-arranging equation (6) and substituting it into equations (5) and (4), we can derive an upper size limit for our redshift bins using the surface brightness and magnitude limits of the GAMA survey:

$$\theta = \sqrt{\frac{L_*}{\mathcal{M}_*} \mathcal{M}} \frac{1}{d_l} 10^{0.2(\mu_{\text{lim}} - M_\odot - k(z) - 25)}, \quad (7)$$

where  $\mathcal{M}$  is the galaxy mass in units of  $\mathcal{M}_\odot$  and we assume an  $i$ -band  $\frac{L_*}{L_\odot} = 2$  (Baldry et al. 2010),  $M_\odot = 4.6$  (Hill et al. 2010) and  $k(z) = 1.5z$  (Driver et al. 1994).

<sup>4</sup> Initial background subtraction is performed during SWARP using a  $256 \times 256$  pixel mesh (Driver et al. 2011).

**Table 2.** The Bayesian expectation parameters for the late-type galaxy  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation according to various population definitions. Parameters  $a$  and  $b$  are used for the single exponential in equation (2) and  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  for the two-component fit in equation (3). Also shown are the parameters found by S03 (Sérsic cut population only).

<i>Late-type galaxies</i>						
Case	$a$ ( $10^{-3}$ )	$b$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$\mathcal{M}_0$ ( $10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ )
<i>Sérsic cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$74.46 \pm 15.16$	$0.17 \pm 0.02$	$0.12 \pm 0.04$	$0.88 \pm 0.39$	$0.21 \pm 0.12$	$27.18 \pm 1.56$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$24.48 \pm 3.07$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.78 \pm 0.30$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$15.77 \pm 0.82$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$27.72 \pm 3.93$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.81 \pm 0.32$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$17.10 \pm 0.91$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$23.36 \pm 3.18$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.76 \pm 0.29$	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	$11.23 \pm 0.56$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$35.37 \pm 5.69$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.87 \pm 0.36$	$0.11 \pm 0.04$	$17.71 \pm 1.00$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$34.29 \pm 4.88$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.84 \pm 0.34$	$0.10 \pm 0.03$	$19.23 \pm 1.01$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$28.52 \pm 4.19$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.81 \pm 0.33$	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	$15.60 \pm 0.86$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$28.69 \pm 4.46$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.86 \pm 0.36$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$17.97 \pm 1.01$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$25.26 \pm 3.91$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.04$	$0.88 \pm 0.38$	$0.07 \pm 0.02$	$20.14 \pm 1.27$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$27.19 \pm 4.50$	$0.21 \pm 0.03$	$0.17 \pm 0.04$	$0.94 \pm 0.40$	$0.06 \pm 0.02$	$26.37 \pm 1.74$
S03	–	–	0.14	0.39	0.1	3.98
<i>(u – r) colour cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$16.67 \pm 2.40$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.05$	$0.77 \pm 0.29$	$0.09 \pm 0.04$	$9.82 \pm 0.52$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$11.79 \pm 1.24$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.05$	$0.72 \pm 0.26$	$0.07 \pm 0.03$	$7.66 \pm 0.43$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$13.63 \pm 1.65$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.04$	$0.73 \pm 0.26$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$8.56 \pm 0.45$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$11.79 \pm 1.34$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.05$	$0.67 \pm 0.20$	$0.09 \pm 0.04$	$5.76 \pm 0.23$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$15.86 \pm 1.95$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.71 \pm 0.22$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$7.02 \pm 0.29$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$24.77 \pm 3.32$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.83 \pm 0.34$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$16.02 \pm 0.90$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$19.59 \pm 2.41$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.75 \pm 0.28$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$9.98 \pm 0.49$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$19.44 \pm 2.51$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.74 \pm 0.26$	$0.10 \pm 0.05$	$8.80 \pm 0.39$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$15.50 \pm 1.80$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.71 \pm 0.22$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$7.18 \pm 0.29$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$11.12 \pm 1.26$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.05$	$0.68 \pm 0.18$	$0.10 \pm 0.05$	$5.09 \pm 0.18$
<i>(g – i) colour cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$16.89 \pm 2.42$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.05$	$0.79 \pm 0.29$	$0.10 \pm 0.05$	$10.26 \pm 0.54$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$11.11 \pm 1.22$	$0.26 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.04$	$0.75 \pm 0.27$	$0.07 \pm 0.03$	$8.49 \pm 0.48$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$13.98 \pm 1.73$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.19 \pm 0.04$	$0.79 \pm 0.30$	$0.05 \pm 0.02$	$13.31 \pm 0.72$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$11.69 \pm 1.32$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.05$	$0.69 \pm 0.21$	$0.09 \pm 0.04$	$6.12 \pm 0.26$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$15.36 \pm 1.86$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.71 \pm 0.23$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$7.05 \pm 0.29$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$24.61 \pm 3.20$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.85 \pm 0.34$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$17.47 \pm 0.98$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$19.66 \pm 2.52$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.77 \pm 0.29$	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	$10.97 \pm 0.55$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$19.53 \pm 2.39$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.76 \pm 0.27$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$9.32 \pm 0.43$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$15.35 \pm 1.81$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.70 \pm 0.23$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	$7.12 \pm 0.30$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$10.68 \pm 1.17$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$0.14 \pm 0.05$	$0.67 \pm 0.18$	$0.12 \pm 0.06$	$4.72 \pm 0.16$
<i>Sérsic + (u – r) colour cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$26.90 \pm 4.21$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.12 \pm 0.05$	$0.70 \pm 0.22$	$0.24 \pm 0.18$	$6.91 \pm 0.27$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$13.25 \pm 1.43$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.66 \pm 0.17$	$0.11 \pm 0.05$	$5.66 \pm 0.19$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$15.16 \pm 1.71$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.68 \pm 0.19$	$0.11 \pm 0.05$	$6.39 \pm 0.21$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$12.93 \pm 1.35$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.12 \pm 0.05$	$0.66 \pm 0.15$	$0.20 \pm 0.13$	$4.19 \pm 0.12$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$22.86 \pm 2.87$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.07 \pm 0.04$	$0.66 \pm 0.14$	$0.61 \pm 1.10$	$3.67 \pm 0.09$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$25.10 \pm 3.15$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.04$	$0.68 \pm 0.19$	$0.23 \pm 0.15$	$6.16 \pm 0.21$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$21.42 \pm 2.54$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.04$	$0.66 \pm 0.17$	$0.26 \pm 0.19$	$4.97 \pm 0.15$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$19.85 \pm 2.32$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.08 \pm 0.04$	$0.64 \pm 0.15$	$0.45 \pm 0.54$	$3.62 \pm 0.10$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$17.13 \pm 1.91$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.05$	$0.66 \pm 0.15$	$0.32 \pm 0.29$	$4.08 \pm 0.11$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$13.13 \pm 1.36$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.05$	$0.66 \pm 0.13$	$0.37 \pm 0.37$	$3.42 \pm 0.08$
<i>Morphology cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$23.75 \pm 3.29$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$0.95 \pm 0.33$	$0.11 \pm 0.05$	$19.39 \pm 0.91$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$31.15 \pm 4.11$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.03$	$0.99 \pm 0.38$	$0.08 \pm 0.03$	$32.69 \pm 1.67$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$37.24 \pm 4.82$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$	$0.16 \pm 0.03$	$1.00 \pm 0.37$	$0.10 \pm 0.03$	$33.62 \pm 1.63$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$30.10 \pm 3.86$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	$0.96 \pm 0.33$	$0.11 \pm 0.04$	$21.86 \pm 0.98$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$33.46 \pm 4.32$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.14 \pm 0.04$	$0.95 \pm 0.33$	$0.14 \pm 0.06$	$19.87 \pm 0.86$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$66.68 \pm 10.54$	$0.17 \pm 0.02$	$0.14 \pm 0.03$	$0.96 \pm 0.40$	$0.13 \pm 0.04$	$47.94 \pm 2.39$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$48.56 \pm 6.88$	$0.19 \pm 0.02$	$0.15 \pm 0.03$	$0.97 \pm 0.38$	$0.11 \pm 0.04$	$35.10 \pm 1.69$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$41.35 \pm 5.59$	$0.19 \pm 0.02$	$0.13 \pm 0.04$	$0.96 \pm 0.33$	$0.18 \pm 0.09$	$20.02 \pm 0.88$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$31.96 \pm 3.90$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$	$0.14 \pm 0.04$	$0.94 \pm 0.32$	$0.13 \pm 0.06$	$19.18 \pm 0.83$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$20.45 \pm 2.19$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$0.14 \pm 0.04$	$0.91 \pm 0.28$	$0.13 \pm 0.05$	$14.03 \pm 0.59$

**Table 3.** The Bayesian expectation parameters for the early-type galaxy  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation according to various population definitions. Parameters  $a$  and  $b$  are used for the single exponential in equation (2) and  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  for the two-component fit in equation (3). Also shown are the parameters found by S03 (Sérsic cut population only).

<i>Early-type galaxies</i>						
Case	$a$ ( $10^{-5}$ )	$b$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$\mathcal{M}_0$ ( $10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ )
<i>Sérsic cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$1345.84 \pm 214.01$	$0.25 \pm 0.03$	$0.07 \pm 0.05$	$0.80 \pm 0.20$	$0.71 \pm 2.19$	$8.43 \pm 0.27$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$8.40 \pm 0.63$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.79 \pm 0.09$	$0.17 \pm 0.13$	$2.54 \pm 0.06$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$8.37 \pm 0.62$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.76 \pm 0.09$	$0.16 \pm 0.12$	$2.42 \pm 0.06$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$7.74 \pm 0.53$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.78 \pm 0.09$	$0.18 \pm 0.14$	$2.43 \pm 0.05$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$107.23 \pm 10.03$	$0.34 \pm 0.02$	$0.0003 \pm 0.0002$	$0.84 \pm 0.11$	$2.08 \pm 0.15$	$3.86 \pm 0.07$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$16.04 \pm 1.26$	$0.41 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.74 \pm 0.10$	$0.15 \pm 0.11$	$2.85 \pm 0.07$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$11.96 \pm 0.83$	$0.42 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.73 \pm 0.09$	$0.13 \pm 0.09$	$2.48 \pm 0.06$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$27.60 \pm 1.98$	$0.39 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.06$	$0.76 \pm 0.09$	$0.23 \pm 0.20$	$3.07 \pm 0.07$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$36.04 \pm 2.71$	$0.38 \pm 0.02$	$0.08 \pm 0.05$	$0.74 \pm 0.10$	$0.27 \pm 0.24$	$2.99 \pm 0.07$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$23.64 \pm 1.69$	$0.40 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.71 \pm 0.09$	$0.18 \pm 0.13$	$2.56 \pm 0.06$
S03	0.347	0.56	–	–	–	–
<i>(u – r) colour cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$7.12 \pm 0.59$	$0.46 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.07$	$0.58 \pm 0.07$	$0.11 \pm 0.09$	$0.98 \pm 0.03$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$5.97 \pm 0.40$	$0.45 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.72 \pm 0.08$	$0.17 \pm 0.13$	$1.94 \pm 0.05$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$7.32 \pm 0.50$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.75 \pm 0.09$	$0.17 \pm 0.13$	$2.31 \pm 0.05$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$4.75 \pm 0.32$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.06$	$0.77 \pm 0.08$	$0.18 \pm 0.13$	$2.17 \pm 0.05$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$7.34 \pm 0.52$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.06$	$0.76 \pm 0.09$	$0.19 \pm 0.15$	$2.36 \pm 0.05$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$11.98 \pm 0.89$	$0.42 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.66 \pm 0.08$	$0.15 \pm 0.11$	$1.94 \pm 0.05$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$8.47 \pm 0.58$	$0.43 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.70 \pm 0.08$	$0.16 \pm 0.11$	$2.09 \pm 0.05$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$6.62 \pm 0.46$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.69 \pm 0.08$	$0.14 \pm 0.09$	$1.80 \pm 0.04$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$7.62 \pm 0.52$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.64 \pm 0.07$	$0.12 \pm 0.07$	$1.55 \pm 0.04$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$4.83 \pm 0.33$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.68 \pm 0.07$	$0.13 \pm 0.09$	$1.58 \pm 0.04$
<i>(g – i) colour cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$10.03 \pm 0.86$	$0.44 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.07$	$0.59 \pm 0.07$	$0.13 \pm 0.10$	$1.16 \pm 0.03$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$7.46 \pm 0.51$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.73 \pm 0.08$	$0.18 \pm 0.13$	$2.09 \pm 0.05$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$8.25 \pm 0.57$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.74 \pm 0.08$	$0.17 \pm 0.13$	$2.24 \pm 0.05$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$5.40 \pm 0.35$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.78 \pm 0.08$	$0.17 \pm 0.13$	$2.30 \pm 0.05$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$8.79 \pm 0.62$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.06$	$0.77 \pm 0.09$	$0.21 \pm 0.17$	$2.48 \pm 0.05$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$13.16 \pm 0.97$	$0.42 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.68 \pm 0.08$	$0.14 \pm 0.10$	$2.15 \pm 0.05$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$9.95 \pm 0.71$	$0.43 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.68 \pm 0.08$	$0.14 \pm 0.10$	$1.92 \pm 0.05$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$7.50 \pm 0.53$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$	$0.09 \pm 0.06$	$0.73 \pm 0.08$	$0.16 \pm 0.11$	$2.17 \pm 0.05$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$8.61 \pm 0.60$	$0.43 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.65 \pm 0.07$	$0.13 \pm 0.09$	$1.66 \pm 0.04$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$5.39 \pm 0.36$	$0.45 \pm 0.02$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$0.71 \pm 0.08$	$0.14 \pm 0.09$	$1.79 \pm 0.04$
<i>Sérsic + (u – r) colour cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$24.46 \pm 2.87$	$0.41 \pm 0.03$	$0.11 \pm 0.07$	$0.61 \pm 0.11$	$0.19 \pm 0.19$	$2.39 \pm 0.08$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$0.23 \pm 0.02$	$0.58 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$0.76 \pm 0.07$	$0.08 \pm 0.05$	$1.33 \pm 0.04$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$0.30 \pm 0.02$	$0.57 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.07$	$0.78 \pm 0.08$	$0.08 \pm 0.05$	$1.54 \pm 0.04$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$0.22 \pm 0.01$	$0.58 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.07$	$0.78 \pm 0.08$	$0.08 \pm 0.05$	$1.46 \pm 0.04$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$0.39 \pm 0.03$	$0.56 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$0.74 \pm 0.08$	$0.08 \pm 0.06$	$1.43 \pm 0.04$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$0.56 \pm 0.04$	$0.54 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$0.70 \pm 0.08$	$0.07 \pm 0.04$	$1.33 \pm 0.04$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$0.42 \pm 0.03$	$0.55 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$0.70 \pm 0.07$	$0.07 \pm 0.04$	$1.16 \pm 0.03$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$0.50 \pm 0.04$	$0.55 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$0.72 \pm 0.08$	$0.07 \pm 0.05$	$1.42 \pm 0.04$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$0.51 \pm 0.04$	$0.55 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$0.68 \pm 0.07$	$0.06 \pm 0.04$	$1.18 \pm 0.04$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$0.36 \pm 0.03$	$0.56 \pm 0.03$	$0.13 \pm 0.09$	$0.68 \pm 0.07$	$0.05 \pm 0.03$	$0.96 \pm 0.03$
<i>Morphology cut</i>						
$u$ (Fig. A1)	$4.84 \pm 0.40$	$0.47 \pm 0.03$	$0.12 \pm 0.07$	$0.69 \pm 0.09$	$0.11 \pm 0.08$	$1.70 \pm 0.05$
$g$ (Fig. A2)	$3.77 \pm 0.25$	$0.47 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.07$	$0.76 \pm 0.09$	$0.11 \pm 0.07$	$2.01 \pm 0.05$
$r$ (Fig. 3)	$4.19 \pm 0.28$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.78 \pm 0.09$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$2.25 \pm 0.06$
$i$ (Fig. A3)	$2.44 \pm 0.15$	$0.49 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.79 \pm 0.08$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$1.96 \pm 0.05$
$z$ (Fig. A4)	$4.54 \pm 0.31$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.76 \pm 0.09$	$0.12 \pm 0.08$	$2.13 \pm 0.05$
$Z$ (Fig. A5)	$6.74 \pm 0.50$	$0.44 \pm 0.03$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.75 \pm 0.10$	$0.11 \pm 0.07$	$2.30 \pm 0.06$
$Y$ (Fig. A6)	$4.97 \pm 0.36$	$0.45 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.73 \pm 0.09$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$2.03 \pm 0.05$
$J$ (Fig. A7)	$3.73 \pm 0.24$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.74 \pm 0.09$	$0.10 \pm 0.06$	$1.89 \pm 0.05$
$H$ (Fig. A8)	$4.08 \pm 0.28$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.07$	$0.71 \pm 0.08$	$0.09 \pm 0.05$	$1.79 \pm 0.05$
$K$ (Fig. A9)	$2.64 \pm 0.18$	$0.48 \pm 0.02$	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	$0.72 \pm 0.08$	$0.09 \pm 0.05$	$1.57 \pm 0.04$



The angle is converted to a physical size for each mass bin by considering the lower and upper mass boundaries of the bin and its corresponding redshift limit.

Note that the boundaries are not strict limits but represent the regions where measurements become less robust. We find that, while these boundaries enclose our data, they do not shepherd it (see Fig. 3) as a fall off in the density of data points is seen before the boundaries are encountered. We therefore conclude that the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations are not being led by the selection boundaries.

We have chosen the  $r$  band to present our method since it is the spectroscopic selection band for the GAMA survey and is also a commonly used band in other studies. However, we have fit all bands ( $ugrizZYJHK_s$ ) and the results are presented alongside the  $r$ -band parameters in Tables 2 and 3 and are plotted in the appendix.

### 3.1 $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ relation: division by Sérsic index

We first compare the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation of our sample with the relation found by S03 (see their fig. 11) for high and low Sérsic index selected samples. We then go on to discuss other possible Sérsic population separators currently in use.

The Sérsic profile (Sérsic 1963; Sérsic 1968; Graham & Driver 2005) describes a galaxy's intensity,  $I(r)$ , as a function of radius,  $r$ :

$$I(r) = I_e \exp \left[ -b_n \left( \left( \frac{r}{r_e} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right) \right], \quad (8)$$

where  $I_e$  is the intensity at the effective radius  $r_e$ , i.e. the half-light radius. The parameter  $b_n$  is a function of the Sérsic index  $n$ , such that  $\Gamma(2n) = 2\gamma(2n, b_n)$ , where  $\Gamma$  and  $\gamma$  are the complete and incomplete gamma functions, respectively (Ciotti 1991). The Sérsic index,  $n$ , describes the shape of the light profile, such that  $n = 0.5$  gives a Gaussian profile,  $n = 1$  describes an exponential profile and  $n = 4$  recovers the de Vaucouleurs  $r^{1/4}$  light profile. The Sérsic index can also be thought of as a concentration index of the galaxy (Trujillo, Graham & Caon 2001) where high Sérsic index galaxies are more centrally concentrated than low Sérsic index galaxies.

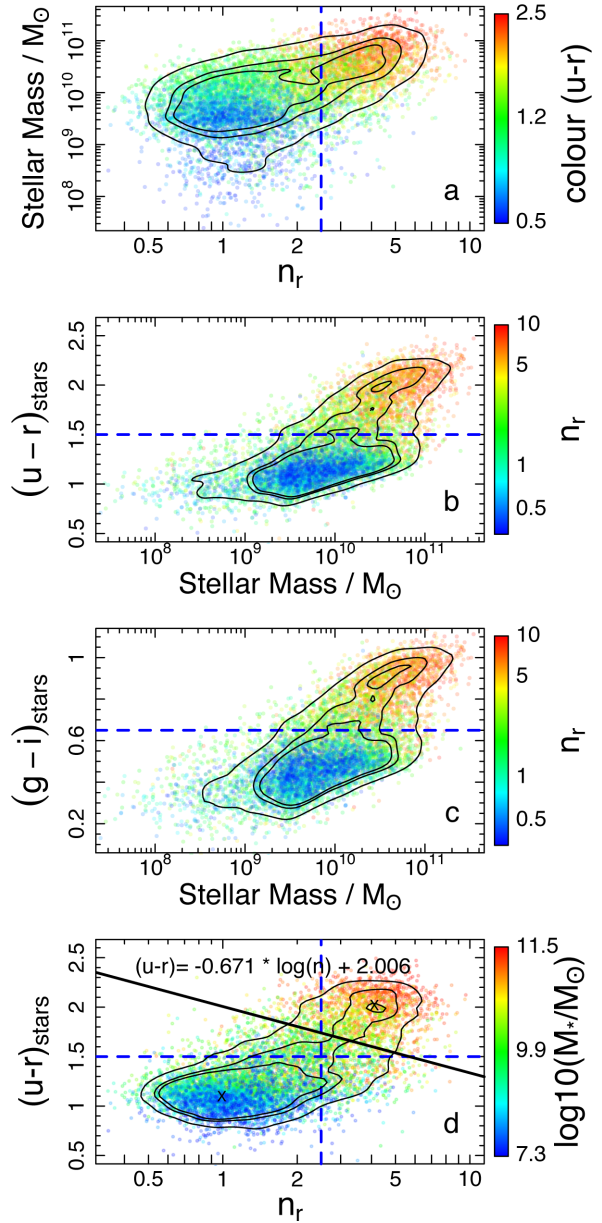
#### 3.1.1 Comparison with S03 – Sérsic index $n = 2.5$

To be consistent with the previous work of S03 the separating Sérsic index was set to  $n = 2.5$ , the average of the exponential profile ( $n = 1$ ) and de Vaucouleurs profile ( $n = 4$ ). In the  $r$  band, this splits our sample into 6108 late-type galaxies and 2291 early-type galaxies.

Fig. 2 (upper panel) shows the stellar mass versus Sérsic index distribution of our sample, colour coded by the dust corrected rest-frame  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour, the blue dashed line indicates the chosen Sérsic separator ( $n = 2.5$ ). The  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  rest-frame colour was taken from Taylor et al. (2011).

Fig. 3(a) shows the resulting  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations, where the left-hand panel shows the late-type galaxies with  $n < 2.5$  in blue and the right-hand panel shows the early-type galaxies with  $n > 2.5$  in red.<sup>5</sup> The individual galaxies are plotted as small dots, the coloured squares show median binned data for visualization only (the fitting is performed on the entire sample) with the dispersion of the data shown as black error bars representing the 0.25 and 0.75 quantile.

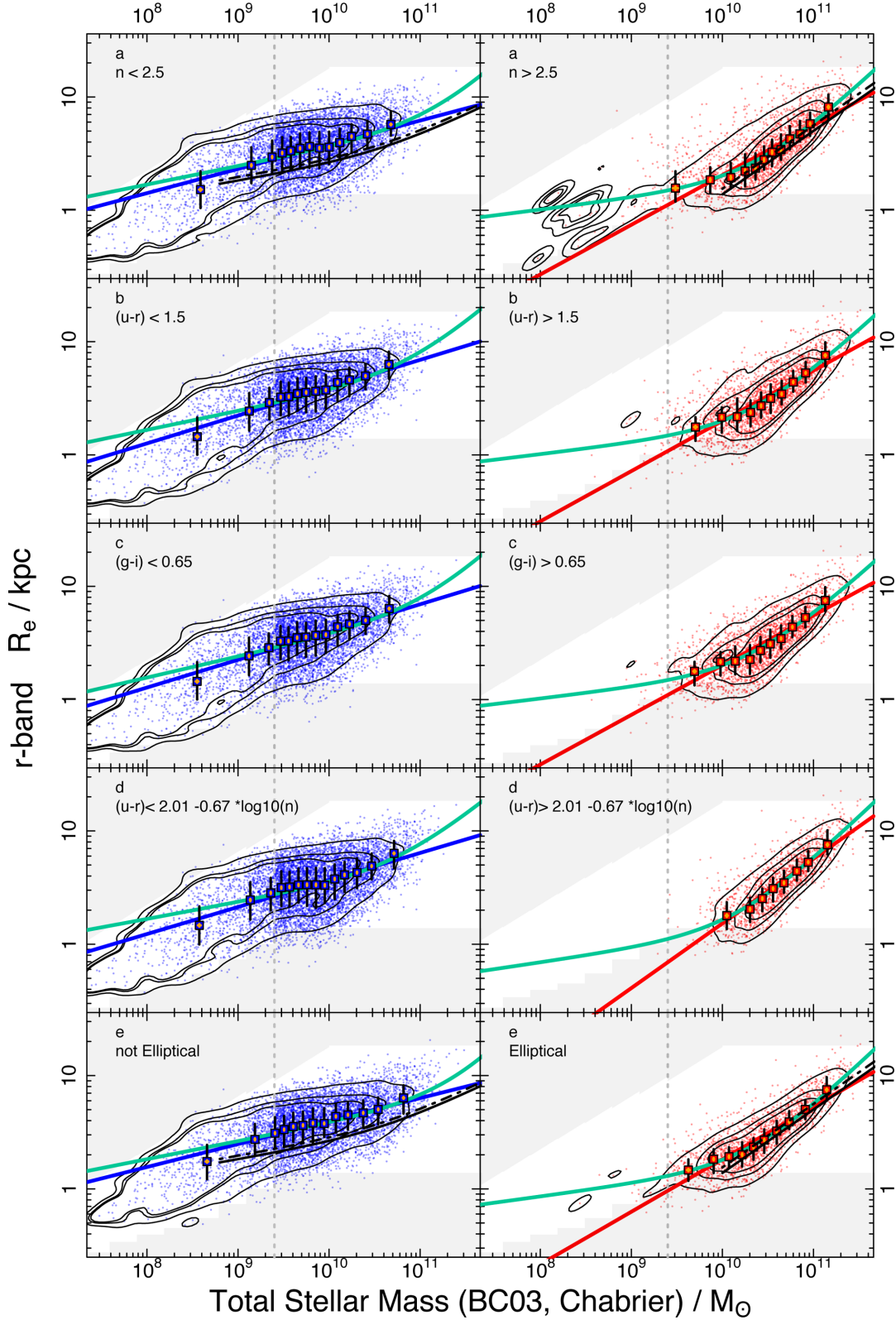
<sup>5</sup> We caution again that using the Sérsic index to establish early- and late-type galaxy populations is misleading when assuming morphological agreement since there are elliptical galaxies with low  $n$  and disc galaxies with high  $n$ .



**Figure 2.** The plot shows the sample distribution in a 3D parameter space illustrating the population selection criteria adopted for the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation. (a) The Sérsic index  $v$  total stellar mass, colour coded by  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour. (b) The  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour  $v$  total stellar mass, colour coded by Sérsic index. (c) The  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour  $v$  total stellar mass, colour coded by Sérsic index. (d) The Sérsic index  $v$   $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour, colour coded by total stellar mass. The blue dashed lines show the hard cuts adopted for Sérsic index ( $n = 2.5$ ) and colour ( $u - r = 1.5$ ) and the solid black line in the bottom panel is a combined Sérsic index and colour cut which gives the best population division (in respect to the visual classifications) with  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}} = -0.671 \times \log_{10}(n_r) + 2.006$ .

The error on the median data points is shown as orange error bars (often smaller than the data point). The contours show the weighted 90th, 68th and 50th percentile of the highest density region of the data. The best-fitting lines (via Bayesian parameter expectation) to the data are shown in red and blue for equation (2) (single power law) and in green for equation (3) (two-component power law). The black lines show the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation as found by S03 (the dot-dashed line is corrected for size difference and the solid line is





**Figure 3.** The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for early- (red, right-hand side) and late- (blue, left-hand side) type galaxies divided by: (a) Sérsic index  $n = 2.5$ ; (b) dust corrected colour  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}} = 1.5$ ; (c) dust corrected colour  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}} = 0.65$ ; (d) rolling Sérsic index division and (e) visual elliptical/not-elliptical classification. The red and blue lines are single-power-law fits to the data (equation 2), the green lines are two-component power-law fits (equation 3) and the grey dotted line indicates the lower mass limit highlighting the wealth of data that would have been ignored. The grey shaded areas indicate where measurements become less reliable due to our detection limitations. The black solid and dot-dashed lines in panels (a) and (e) show the S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation where the dot-dashed line shows the sizes corrected from  $z$ - to  $r$ -band values and the solid line shows the relation as is. For the fitting parameters see Tables 2 and 3.

uncorrected, see below for explanation). The grey dashed vertical line on the plot indicates the lower mass limit which was calculated for a colour unbiased volume-limited sample out to  $z = 0.1$ . We plot this line to visually illustrate the point at which the volume becomes reduced, but remind the reader that we fit to the entire mass-range of the staggered volume-limited sample shown. The fitting parameters to equations (2) and (3) can be found in Table 2 for our late-type sample and Table 3 for the early-type sample. For comparison both tables also show the respective early- and late-type  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  fitting parameters found by S03.

It is important to note that the S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation was fitted using the  $z$ -band-circularized half-light radius thus a direct comparison between the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation presented in Fig. 3(a) and S03 would lead to wrong conclusions since we expect the  $z$ -band sizes to be smaller than the  $r$ -band sizes.

To illustrate the difference introduced by analysing the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in different wave bands, we have plotted the S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation without any correction of the expected sizes (i.e.  $z$ -band sizes, black solid line, Fig. 3a) and with sizes corrected to reflect  $r$ -band sizes (black dot-dashed line, Fig. 3a). To correct the S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation, we use the wavelength-dependent size relation for discs and spheroids found by Kelvin et al. (2012) to establish a ratio of the sizes between the  $r$  and  $z$  band of 1.075 for the late-types and 1.123 for the early-types sizes. We then multiply the sizes obtained for the S03 late-type relation by these ratios. The resulting shift moves the early-type S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation further on to our galaxy distribution; however, it is steeper than our observed relation. For late types, we still see an offset between the S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation and our data.

Fig. A4 (top panel) shows the direct comparison between the S03 and our  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in the  $z$  band. Even though the same waveband is compared here, we still see an offset between the two relations. For the early types, this equates to S03 sizes being on average 1.1 kpc smaller than our sizes at most galaxy masses but larger at  $\mathcal{M}_* \gtrsim 2 \times 10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . However, in this regime our  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation is not well constrained. For late-type galaxies, we have a median size offset between S03 and our sizes of  $\sim 0.9$  kpc. The main contributing factors to this discrepancy are likely to be our deeper data and the use of elliptical semimajor axis  $R_e$  as opposed to circularized  $R_e$  used in S03. The former causes the observed differences in the slope while the latter shifts our  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation to larger sizes. Using elliptical semimajor axis radii instead of circularized sizes also explain the larger size offset for late-type galaxies, which on average have a higher (observed) ellipticity than the early-type galaxies. Also note that for a fair comparison, the fits should only be considered in the mass range in which the S03 relation was established, these are  $\log_{10}(\mathcal{M}_*/\mathcal{M}_\odot) \gtrsim 8.8$  for late types and  $\log_{10}(\mathcal{M}_*/\mathcal{M}_\odot) \gtrsim 10.1$  for early types.

For the early types, S03 found a single power law (equation 2) to be a good fit. In Fig. 3, if we consider the same mass range, then the S03  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation seemingly fits well on to our data. However, if we consider the entire mass range available, we find that the two-component power law (equation 3) is a better fit due to some flattening in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  distribution observed for low-mass galaxies (in particular galaxies below  $\log_{10}(\mathcal{M}_*/\mathcal{M}_\odot) \lesssim 10$ ) and a steepening of the relation at the high-mass end. A similar flattening was also observed for spheroids by e.g. Shankar et al. (2013) and Berg et al. (2014) and could be related to dissipation processes during (gas-rich) mergers. In fact, it has been known for some time that the elliptical  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation becomes flat for small galaxies, especially when considering dwarf ellipticals (see Section 3.4.1 for more information). However, small elliptical galaxies ( $\mathcal{M} <$

$10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) have been found to also have smaller Sérsic indices ( $n < 2.5$ ; see e.g. Graham et al. 2006) and thus the flattening seen here is likely caused by cross-scattering of non-elliptical galaxies with higher Sérsic indices. In addition, the flattening observed in our sample is based on very few galaxies which cannot constrain the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fit to equation (3) well and cause the fit to equation (2) to flatten considerably.

For the late types, when considering the same mass-range, our data show a similar distribution (see Fig. 3) to S03, who found a two-component power law to be a good fit to the data. However, we find that our data, at fixed mass, has larger sizes than the S03 relation, even after the correction for the wavelength-dependent sizes (due to the use of circularized sizes in the S03 fit). In addition, the fit to equation (3) has a high ‘transitioning mass’  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , of the order of a few  $10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ , which lies beyond most galaxies in our sample (at least 99.5 per cent of galaxies have masses below  $\mathcal{M}_0$  in any band). Hence, over the mass range observed, the two-component fit (equation 3) is driven to a single exponential fit with slope  $\alpha$  in our MCMC fitting. In addition, fitting parameter  $\alpha$  is, within the errors, not dissimilar to fitting parameter  $b$  from equation (2). This makes the fit to the two-component power law superfluous over the mass range observed here.

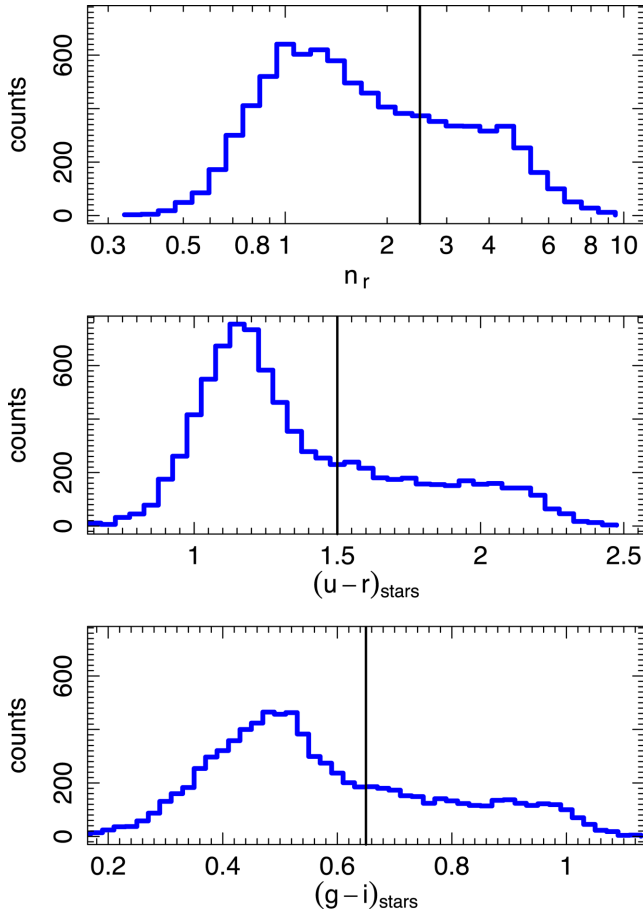
### 3.1.2 Alternative Sérsic population separators

As pointed out previously, the flattening observed in the early-type  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in our Sérsic index divided sample might be due to the inclusion of galaxies that in reality belong to the morphologically classified late-type population. One possible cause of this is that a separation of the population at  $n = 2.5$  is a poor description of the actual distribution of the Sérsic indices in our sample. We expect a bimodality in the Sérsic index distribution with late-type galaxies tending to  $n = 1$  and early-type galaxies to  $n = 4$ . To check this, we plot the Sérsic index distribution in the top panel of Fig. 4. However, we see no clear separating Sérsic index between early- and late-type populations.

Bimodalities are most evident when the two populations are seen in equal numbers. However, over the whole mass range probed in our sample we have more late-type than early-type galaxies especially at lower masses. In addition, elliptical galaxies tend to have lower Sérsic indices at lower masses ( $\mathcal{M} \lesssim 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ). Hence, including these low-mass galaxies will skew the distribution of Sérsic indices towards smaller numbers making the bimodality less obvious. This can also be seen in the top panel of Fig. 2, which shows that galaxies with high Sérsic indices ( $n > 2.5$ ) tend to have masses above  $10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$  and most galaxies with masses  $< 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$  have Sérsic indices  $n < 2.5$ . The few galaxies that have low masses ( $\sim 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) and high Sérsic indices ( $n > 2.5$ ) are the ‘cross-scatter’ we see in the above  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation.

Fig. 5 shows the same data as Fig. 2; however, the data points are colour coded by the visual classification. The top panel shows that there is a lot of cross-scatter of morphological late types (i.e. non-elliptical galaxies) into the high- $n$  region as well as morphological early types (i.e. elliptical galaxies) into the low- $n$  region.

Since the dispersion around the mean for late types is already large, including these cross-scattered galaxies in the late-type sample has little effect. However, including the cross-scattered galaxies in the early-type sample increases the dispersion and changes the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation, especially at lower masses. Considering this we find that an alternative (but rigid) Sérsic index cut would not improve the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits and we will concentrate on other



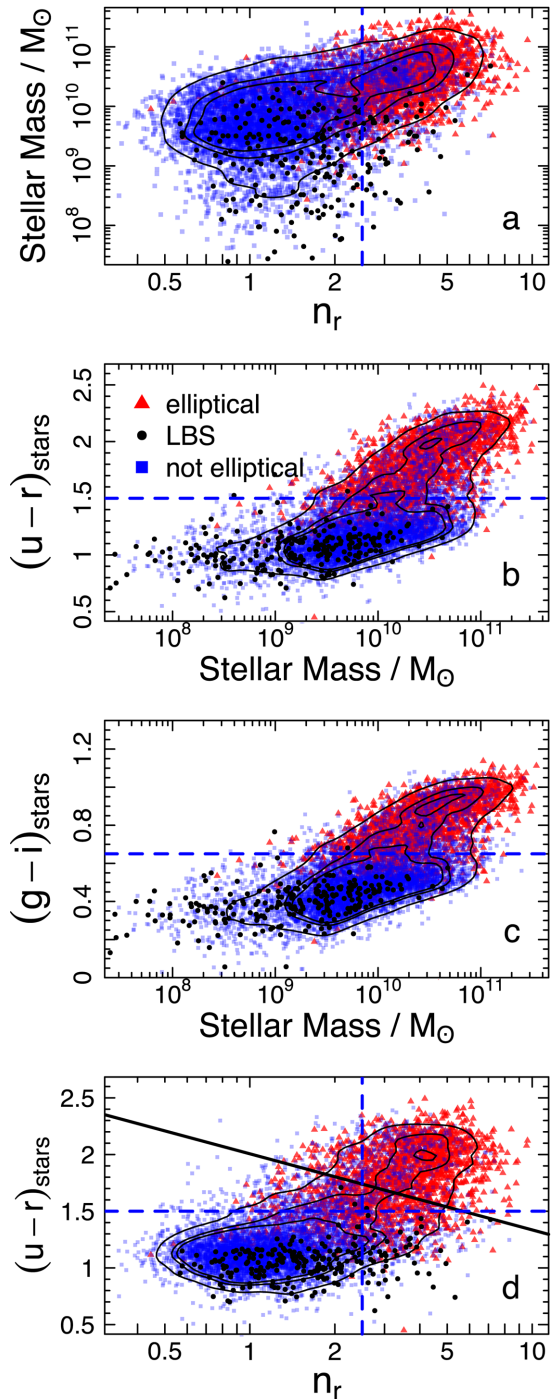
**Figure 4.** The top panel shows the histogram for the Sérsic index distribution in the  $r$ -band. There is no clear bimodality visible in the distribution, i.e. there is no trough between the two populations. Instead number counts plateau after the initial peak ( $n \sim 1$ ) before falling off further after the second ‘peak’ ( $n \sim 4$ ). The black vertical line shows the chosen Sérsic index separator  $n = 2.5$ . The middle panel shows the histogram of the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  dust corrected rest-frame colour distribution. As before there is no clear bimodality; however, the first peak seems clearer than in the Sérsic index distribution. The vertical black line indicates the used threshold of 1.5. The bottom panel shows the histogram of the  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  dust corrected rest-frame colour distribution. Again the bimodality is not very clear and the threshold set to 0.65 (black vertical line).

possible population separators which are discussed in the following sections.

### 3.2 $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ relation: division by colour

Here, we investigate the identification of early- and late-type galaxies depending on two different colour selections. We have adopted the dust corrected  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour division and the dust corrected  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour division.

The two middle panels of Fig. 2 show the 3D distribution of the dust corrected  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour and  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour versus galaxy stellar mass with the data points coloured by their Sérsic index (panels b and c, respectively). Both colour distributions show that, in comparison to the Sérsic index distribution, a distinction between late and early types should be clearer with two unconnected population centres visible in the plot. The middle and



**Figure 5.** The distribution of the galaxies in our sample plotted for the same subplots as Fig. 2 but with the data points colour coded according to the visual classification assigned to them. The blue dashed lines indicate the chosen Sérsic index colour population separators and the black solid line in the lower panel shows the combined  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour and Sérsic index cut. Two distinct populations of elliptical and ‘non-elliptical’ galaxies can be seen. In addition, we see a population of LBSs which mostly scatter across the ‘non-elliptical’ population but in the case of a Sérsic cut also scatter on to the elliptical population.

lower panels of Fig. 4 show the histograms of the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  and  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colours, respectively. The peak of the late-type population appears somewhat clearer in the colour histograms than it is in the Sérsic index histogram, and we chose the population division at

a point where the late-type populations become reduced and starts to plateau towards the early-type population. We set the population cuts to  $(u - r)_{\text{rest}} = 1.5$  and  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}} = 0.65$ .

This population separation results in 5912 late-type galaxies and 2487 early-type galaxies using the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour division and 5876 late types and 2523 early types using the  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour division. The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  fit to the early and late types divided by colour can be seen in Fig. 3(b) for the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour cut and panel c for the  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour cut. The fit parameters are given in Tables 2 and 3, we fit the same equations as for the Sérsic division (equations 2 and 3).

Comparing the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations derived using a colour division to those derived by a Sérsic division, we find a reduced number of galaxies at low masses ( $\mathcal{M}_* \gtrsim 10^{9.4} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ , as these galaxies have been moved into the late-type sample). However, these additions to the late-type sample lead to a slight steepening in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the single exponential fit and the transition mass ‘ $\mathcal{M}_0$ ’ in the double-power-law fit is reduced of the order of several  $10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$  which is at the upper limit of our data. Overall the fit to equation (2) is a good approximation of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for late types, especially in the lower mass range (when compared to the curved relation). The early-type  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations of both colour cuts continue to show some flattening for galaxies with  $\mathcal{M}_* \gtrsim 2 \times 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$  and the double-power-law fits remain largely unchanged compared to the Sérsic index early types. However, for most bands we observe a steepening of the single-power-law fit to the data. This is largely due to the move of low-mass ( $\mathcal{M} \lesssim 10^{9.4} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) galaxies into the late-type sample. Overall the single power law is a good approximation of the data. However, due to the low-mass flattening of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  distribution the single-power-law fit is not steep enough to fit very massive galaxies (with  $\mathcal{M} > 10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) well and hence the double-power-law fit should be considered instead.

### 3.3 $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ relation: combined Sérsic index and colour division

A rigid cut by either colour or Sérsic index will never be a good representation for early- and late-type galaxy populations, especially since the early-/late-type classification itself is not rigid. Figs 2 and 4 show that neither the Sérsic index nor the colour are definitive separators for the early- and late-type populations. The Sérsic index in particular does not show a clear bimodality and the colour distributions show a slightly sharper peak for the blue galaxies which plateaus and then transitions into the red galaxies. This is not surprising if we take into account that often early types are associated with elliptical galaxies and late types with non-elliptical galaxies (Robotham et al. 2013), this will lead to a significant overlap of the populations if only colour or Sérsic index are considered as a true representation of the galaxy morphology. This point is discussed in detail by Taylor et al. (2014) and can be seen in the  $r$ -band Sérsic index versus  $(u - r)_{\text{rest}}$  colour plot (bottom panel of Fig. 2). The plot shows two populations, one in the blue colour and low Sérsic index region and the other in the red colour and high Sérsic index region. In the plot, the data points are coloured according to their mass also showing that most early types (i.e. high- $n$  and red) are more massive than late-type (i.e. low- $n$  and blue) galaxies. The contours show the data density and the blue dashed lines show the previously chosen separators for Sérsic index and colour. The plot shows that choosing the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour as a separator reduces the cross-contamination compared to the Sérsic index cut. But it is also clear that neither

colour nor Sérsic index are ideal separators and a combined Sérsic index and colour cut should improve the separation of the early and late types. The solid black line in the bottom panel of Fig. 2 shows a separation of the two populations that depends on both the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour and the Sérsic index. It is a ‘best population division’ line, with a slope that is orthogonal to the connecting line between the two population centres (marked by the crosses) and an intercept that is chosen in such a way that the bijective assignment to the (visually classified) morphological elliptical/non-elliptical classification (see Section 3.4) is maximized, i.e. the probability of correctly assigning a galaxy as either early or late type is maximized. The resulting division line splits the sample into 6748 late-type galaxies and 1651 early-type galaxies. This division line is calculated for each band and the equation is given in panel d on all  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation plots.

The resulting  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation is plotted in Fig. 3(d). There are even less low-mass galaxies included in the early-type population compared to previous cuts. This leads to a steepening of the fit to equation (2), whereas the fitting parameters to equation (3) continue to remain mostly unchanged. The fitting parameters to the single power law for the late types also remain largely unchanged. Whereas the double-component power law still has a fairly high ‘transitioning mass’  $\mathcal{M}_0$  ( $\sim 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) and a slope  $\alpha$  that is too shallow to describe the low-mass galaxies well ( $\mathcal{M} \lesssim 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ). Using the rolling Sérsic index and colour cut, we find that a single-power-law fit to the data is sufficient to describe the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  distribution of both the early and late types.

Comparing the fitting parameters for all the above discussed cases shows that they are quite robust to changes in the chosen population separator, that is if we consider equation (2) for late types and equation (3) for early types only. The more dominant changes come from the chosen sample, e.g. the mass range probed or circular versus semimajor axis radii. This becomes apparent when comparing our sample with the S03 relation. For example, if we compare the single-power-law fit for the early-type galaxies in this section with the fit found by S03, we find that the slope is comparable due to the exclusion of many low-mass galaxies in this particular sample selection.

The remaining question is, are any of the chosen separators in fact good enough to describe the underlying populations satisfactorily, i.e. how do the above  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations compare to the relations found for a visually classified morphological early-/late-type sample?

### 3.4 $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ relation: division by morphology

We use the elliptical-elliptical visual classifications as defined by Driver et al. (2013) who used  $H_{\text{ig}}$  colour images to classify the GAMAmid sample. Our morphological sample consists of 2010 elliptical galaxies, 6151 non-ellipticals and 231 little blue spheroids (LBS hereafter). LBS are galaxies that look spheroidal (i.e. elliptical-like) but are blue in colour and typically small (median size  $\sim 1.3$  kpc) and do not fit in well with either our elliptical or non-elliptical sample (see Kelvin et al. 2014 for initial identification of this sample in GAMA and Moffett et al., in preparation for more details on the nature of these galaxies).

Fig. 5 shows the population distribution in four different panels (as Fig. 1), from top to bottom these are: stellar mass versus Sérsic index,  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour versus stellar mass,  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour versus stellar mass and  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour versus Sérsic index. The galaxies classified as ellipticals are shown in red, non-elliptical in blue and



the LBS are black. A significant cross scatter of the elliptical and non-elliptical galaxies can be seen in all plots. This means that around 30–40 per cent of the galaxies classified as early types using a rigid population separator are actually ‘non-elliptical’ galaxies according to their visual classification.

However, even though the size of the cross-scatter is similar in all three cases the Sérsic index cut has the worst sample contamination due to the number of LBS galaxies and other low-mass but high- $n$  non-elliptical galaxies classified as early type. The inclusion of the LBS and low-mass but high- $n$  galaxies influences the early-type fit which can be seen in the Sérsic index cut  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation as the low-mass flattening discussed previously. The presence of low- $n$  and low-mass elliptical galaxies we see is also expected, see e.g. Graham & Guzman (2003) who show that there is a continuous downward trend of the Sérsic index with luminosity (their fig. 10). However, their inclusion in the late-type sample and exclusion from the early-type sample are not a driving factor in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fit of the late types.

In the case of the colour cuts and the rolling colour and Sérsic index cut, the late-type galaxies misclassified as early types are not as clearly distinguishable from the actual elliptical galaxies, i.e. there are less outliers like red and low mass or red and low- $n$  galaxies. The distribution of these misclassified ‘early types’ in the stellar mass–colour space and the colour–Sérsic index space is similar to that of the ellipticals, hence the resulting  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations have less low-mass contamination.

We fit the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation according to the visual classification and the resulting fits can be seen in Fig. 3(e) and the fitting parameters are given in Tables 2 and 3.

The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fit to the early- and late-type populations according to their visual classifications shows that early-type galaxies have a distribution with little scatter but late-type galaxies still display a large dispersion. As seen in the previous sections the fitting parameters remain relatively robust to the slight changes in the overall population sample. In addition, the double-power-law fit to the late types has a very high value for  $\mathcal{M}_0$  (a few  $10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) which means the fit tends to a single power law over the mass range observed. We do again observe the turn-off and flattening of the early-type relation, hence we recommend using the double-power-law fit to the early-type galaxies. If however a single-power-law fit is required for comparisons, we caution that the relation shown here underestimates the very high mass end of the distribution. If these galaxies are of particular interest, we provide a single-power-law fit to the early-type (late type)  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for galaxies with  $\mathcal{M}_* > 2 \times 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$  ( $\mathcal{M}_* > 2.5 \times 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) in Appendix B.

#### 3.4.1 The low-mass flattening of the elliptical $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ relation

Fig. 3 shows that early-type galaxies (right-hand panel) show evidence of a low-mass ( $\mathcal{M}_* \lesssim 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) turn-off in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation. Hence, a curved relation fit is needed when lower mass early-type galaxies are present in the sample. However, we caution again that not all early-type descriptors represent the underlying elliptical population well and the low-mass end of the distribution should be treated with care.

Here, we show that elliptical galaxies indeed have a flattened  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation at the low-mass end ( $\mathcal{M}_* < 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ; see e.g. Graham 2013 and references therein) and that the apparent turn off visible in our distribution of early-type galaxies is in good agreement with a sample of low-mass elliptical galaxies from Graham et al. (2006).

Fig. 6 shows a comparison between the  $g$ -band distribution of elliptical galaxies in this paper (as Fig. A2) and the sample of elliptical galaxies from Graham et al. (2006). The red points show the distribution of our  $g$ -band data and the red and green lines are the corresponding fits to equations (2) and (3), respectively. The black triangles show the elliptical galaxies from Graham et al. (2006) and the curved purple line shows the expected relation presented in the same paper. The curved line is derived from considerations of the  $M_{\text{gal}} - \langle \mu \rangle_e$  relation (Graham & Guzman 2003) and the luminosity relation,  $L_{\text{gal}} = 10^{-M_{\text{gal}}/2.5} = 2 (\pi R_e^2 \langle I \rangle_e)$ .

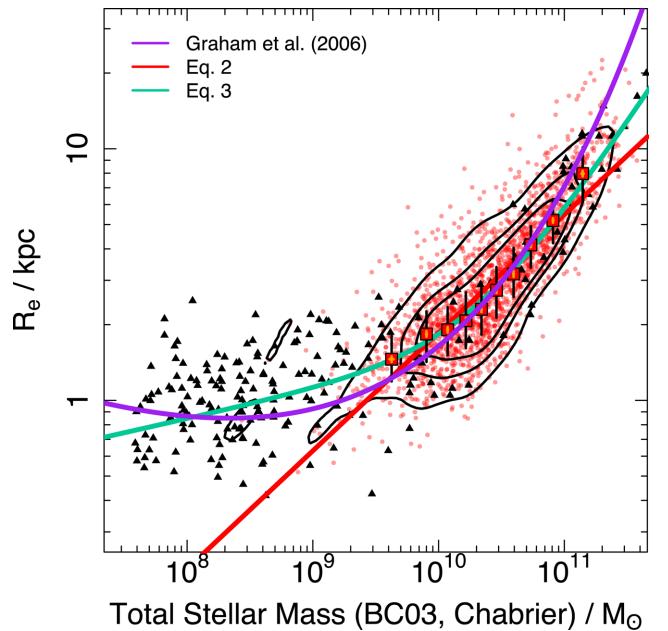
The sample of elliptical galaxies in Graham et al. (2006) is presented in  $B$ -band magnitudes, which have to be converted to stellar masses. To calculate the stellar mass from the given absolute  $B$ -band magnitudes, we first convert from  $B$ -band to  $g$ -band absolute magnitudes. According to equation A5 in Cross et al. (2004), we have  $B = g + 0.39(g - r) + 0.21$  and we adopt the mean colour of our elliptical population of  $(g - r) = 0.71$ . The mass ( $\mathcal{M}$ ) is simply given by

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{\mathcal{M}}{L} 10^{0.4(M_\odot - M_{\text{gal}})}, \quad (9)$$

where, instead of a constant mass-to-light ratio ( $\frac{\mathcal{M}}{L}$ ), we use the mass and luminosities of our elliptical galaxies to establish the change of  $\frac{\mathcal{M}}{L}$  with the absolute  $g$ -band magnitude:

$$\left( \frac{\mathcal{M}}{L} \right)_g = 10^{-0.047 M_g - 0.608}. \quad (10)$$

It is obvious from Fig. 6 that a curved relation is preferred when considering all elliptical galaxies from dwarf to giant ellipticals. Yet it is also clear that with the data available in our sample, we do not observe enough low-mass (i.e.  $\mathcal{M}_* < \mathcal{M}_{\text{lim}}$ ) galaxies to robustly constrain this curved relation. Considering this we stress again that



**Figure 6.** The plot shows a comparison of our data (same as bottom panel in Fig. A2) with data from Graham et al. (2006) shown as black triangles with their predicted curved relation in purple. For the mass-range probed in this paper the turn-off is not very prominent and a linear  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation is a good approximation for the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  distribution. However, if more low-mass ellipticals are included then the flattening of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation becomes evident and a curved relation is needed to fit the data well.



even though we recommend using the linear  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits to our data, these should only be compared to other data available in a similar mass range (i.e.  $10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot < \mathcal{M}_* < 10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ). At lower masses a curved relation is preferred, but we caution that the curved fits provided in this paper are not well constrained for very low mass elliptical/early-type galaxies.

#### 4 WAVELENGTH DEPENDENCE OF GALAXY SIZES

We investigate the wavelength dependence of galaxy sizes using the results of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits to our visually classified early-/late-type sample. The top panel of Fig. 7 plots the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits to equation (2) in the *grizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>* bands for our late types on the left and early types on the right (we show the fits to equation 3 as the dashed and lighter coloured lines, to illustrate the effect of the turn-off of the early-type  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation at lower masses). It is clear that the early-type relation is steeper, and typically has smaller sizes, than the late-type relation with both  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations approaching similar sizes at  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . For both the late-type and early-type  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation, we see a smooth progression of the expected size with wavelength from *g* band to *K<sub>s</sub>* band.

However, it is also apparent that the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations are not parallel and the offset is a function of stellar mass. The bottom-left panel of Fig. 7 plots the size change with wavelength for the late types for two different masses,  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^9$  and  $10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . We did not investigate the size–wavelength trend at  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$  since we cannot constrain the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation well due to small number statistics.

Overall we observe a reduction in size (*g* to *K<sub>s</sub>* band) for the late types of 16 per cent, and 13 per cent at  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$  and  $10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ , respectively. This is less than the size variation observed by Kelvin et al. (2012) and Vulcani et al. (2014). The best-fitting linear relations describing the size change in kpc with wavelength are shown in Table 4. We have established a best-fitting linear relation for all masses probed and also present the relation found by Kelvin et al. (2012) for comparison. Please note that we did not correct our wavelengths to the rest frame due to the limited redshift range sampled.

The bottom-right panel of Fig. 7 plots the size change with wavelength for the early-types for two different masses,  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^{10}$  and  $10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . We did not investigate the expected size variation around  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$  since our sample does not have a sufficient number of galaxies at low masses and hence the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation is not well constrained. For the early types, we observe a size reduction from *g* to *K<sub>s</sub>* band of 13 and 11 per cent at  $\mathcal{M}_* = 10^{10}$  and  $10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . This is significantly less than the change reported in Kelvin et al. (2012) who found a size reduction of 38 per cent for their full early-type sample.

We believe that this reduction in observed size variation, both for early and late types, is due to the switch from the shallower UKIDSS *YJHK<sub>s</sub>* imaging data to the deeper VIKING *YJHK<sub>s</sub>* imaging data. The spheroid population typically has high Sérsic index values (i.e.  $n \sim 4$ ) which means they have very extended lower surface brightness wings which can lead to an overestimation of the local sky level. However, with the improvement of the imaging data switching from UKIDSS to VIKING these galaxy wings become detectable above the noise level and we recover larger radii during the light profile fitting. Galaxy discs are less affected by this since their low Sérsic index ( $n \sim 1$ ) means that they do not have low surface brightness wings which contain a significant flux contribution.

We attribute the observed size variation in the late-type galaxies to dust attenuation which would preferentially obscure the central regions of galaxies and thus cause an artificial shift to higher effective half-light radii in the shorter optical bands. As such, this effect should be more prominent in disc galaxies which are dustier than spheroid galaxies. In fact the observed size change is in agreement with expected values, see e.g. Pastrav et al. (2013) who predict an effect of  $\sim 15$  per cent on the sizes of discs due to dust attenuation. However, the observed size drop of  $\sim 13$  per cent in our spheroid sample, which typically have no dust associated with them, suggests that other effects also influence the observed size variation of galaxies, such as stellar population or metallicity gradients and the two-component nature of galaxies (see Vulcani et al. 2014, who have also noted this), i.e. generic inside-out formation histories with discs continually growing through gas infall and spheroids accreting in minor merger events.

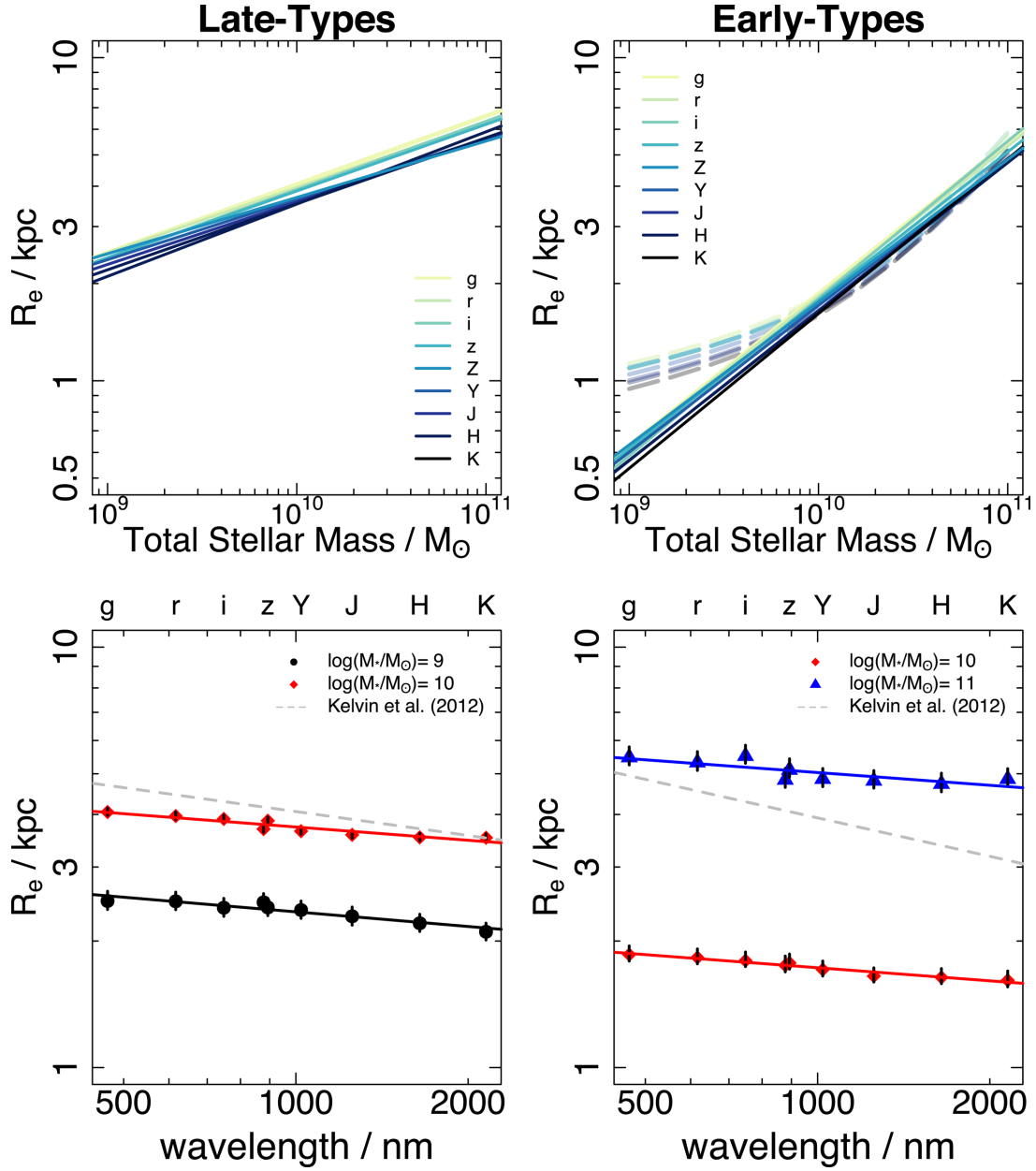
It is also interesting to note that we see a slight decrease of the size–wavelength dependence of galaxies with increasing mass across the early and late types. We are not certain if this trend is real (we only sample a small number of masses) nor do we fully understand the cause of this trend, if it is indeed significant. However, it would generally be consistent with downsizing (i.e. massive systems form faster; Thomas et al. 2005). In this context the massive galaxies are likely to be the oldest in our sample and hence would have had more time to re-distribute their stellar populations (in part aided by major mergers; see e.g. Conselice 2014) so that we see less stellar population (or colour) gradients and hence their  $R_e$  and Sérsic index should change less with wavelength. In contrast for the less massive, and probably younger, galaxies we potentially see the traces of their accretion history (including minor mergers), where we have an older more centrally concentrated stellar populations and a younger more wide spread stellar population. This would be in accordance with the inside-out growth scenario for galaxies (e.g. Hopkins et al. 2009).

#### 5 DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

We use a sample of GAMA galaxies with redshifts between  $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.1$  and magnitudes of  $r < 19.8$  mag to study the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in the *ugrizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>* bands. To establish a comprehensive set of  $z = 0$   $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations, we first set up a common sample of 8399 (6154) galaxies in the *g - K<sub>s</sub>* (*u - K<sub>s</sub>*) bands with high-quality galaxy profiles in all bands. We also carefully consider our selection boundaries and find that our data lies within the observable window, allowing for an unbiased fit to the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation. Furthermore, we split the sample into early and late type using several common separators:

- (i) the Sérsic index,
- (ii) the dust corrected rest-frame ( $u - r$ )<sub>stars</sub> colour,
- (iii) the dust corrected rest-frame ( $g - i$ )<sub>stars</sub> colour,
- (iv) a combined ( $u - r$ )<sub>stars</sub> colour–Sérsic index cut and
- (v) the visual morphology of galaxies.

The resulting early- and late-type populations are fitted with two functions, a single power law and a two-component power law. For the late-type samples, the two-component power law shows some variation with the ‘transition mass’  $\mathcal{M}_0$  changing significantly for different chosen separators. This is not surprising since we leave  $\mathcal{M}_0$  as a free parameter in contrast to the S03 fits where  $\mathcal{M}_0$  was set at the point at which the dispersion of their data changes and moves from ‘high’- to ‘low’-mass galaxies. As such  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is only an artificial ‘transition mass’ in our fits and no real physical meaning can be



**Figure 7.** The top panel shows the visually classified morphological late- and early-type  $grizZYJHK_s$   $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations, in the left- and right-hand side plots, respectively. We use the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits to equation (2) in our size–wavelength considerations, but the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits to equation (3) are shown for comparison for early-types galaxies in the top-right plot (dashed, lighter coloured lines). The bottom panel shows the corresponding size–wavelength variation with sizes calculated for different masses. We also show the best-fitting linear relation of the size–wavelength variation for each mass (fit parameters can be found in Table 4). In addition, we show the relations found by Kelvin et al. (2012) as the grey dashed line which was obtained over the entire mass range sampled in their paper.

assigned. In addition, we find that most parameters of equation (3) change significantly with the different cuts whereas parameter  $b$  in equation (2) stays remarkably constant and only the intercept changes with the chosen separator (indicating the biases introduced by the different separators). Considering this we find that the single-power-law fit is sufficient to describe the data and recommend using it as the canonical reference in comparison with other data sets.

For the early-types however we find that the two-component power law has more robust results than the single-component power law due to the flattening of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  distribution. We recom-

mend that a move to a curved relation for the elliptical (early-types) galaxies is necessary (such as seen in Graham et al. 2006). However, if mostly high-mass elliptical galaxies are studied a single-component power law may be sufficient, but we caution that the slope for the single-component power law in Table 3 describes the overall sample and hence is too shallow to describe a sample of only high-mass galaxies adequately. For those cases when a linear comparison is needed, we provide additional  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations for early-type galaxies with masses of  $\mathcal{M}_* > \mathcal{M}_{\text{lim}} = 2 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$  (fit to equation 2) in Appendix B.

**Table 4.** The size–wavelength variations of late- and early types for different masses.

(a) Late-type size–wavelength variation	
Case	Relation
$10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$	$\log_{10}(R_e) = -0.116 \log_{10}(\lambda) + 0.717$
$10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$	$\log_{10}(R_e) = -0.105 \log_{10}(\lambda) + 0.887$
Kelvin et al. (2012)	$\log_{10}(R_e) = -0.189 \log_{10}(\lambda_{\text{rest}}) + 1.176$
(b) Early-type size–wavelength variation	
Case	Relation
$10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$	$\log_{10}(R_e) = -0.104 \log_{10}(\lambda) + 0.548$
$10^{11} \mathcal{M}_\odot$	$\log_{10}(R_e) = -0.101 \log_{10}(\lambda) + 1.004$
Kelvin et al. (2012)	$\log_{10}(R_e) = -0.304 \log_{10}(\lambda_{\text{rest}}) + 1.506$

**Table 5.** The table shows the fraction of late- and early-type galaxies which are classified as non-elliptical or elliptical for the four rigid population cuts. In addition, we calculate the (bijective) probability of any galaxy in the sample having been correctly associated with the morphological early- and late-type classifications. From top to bottom, we show this for galaxies (a) below the mass limit; (b) galaxies above the mass limit and (c) the entire sample. In each case, we also show the percentage of the entire sample that were visually classified as either elliptical (early type) or non-elliptical (late type). The sample sizes do not add up to 100 per cent and the missing fraction is represented by the LBS. Numbers in bold denote the highest probability in each case.

(a) $\mathcal{M}_* < \mathcal{M}_{\text{lim}}$					
Case	Late-type	×	Early-type	=	Bijective
Sample size	87.8 per cent		2.6 per cent		
Sérsic index	<b>0.896</b>		0.139		0.125
$(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$	0.882		0.189		0.167
$(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$	0.883		<b>0.242</b>		<b>0.214</b>
Rolling cut	0.878		0		0
(b) $\mathcal{M}_* > \mathcal{M}_{\text{lim}}$					
Case	Late-type	×	Early-type	=	Bijective
Sample size	70.5 per cent		27.9 per cent		
Sérsic index	0.874		0.653		0.57
$(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$	0.879		0.623		0.548
$(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$	<b>0.881</b>		0.614		0.544
Rolling cut	0.835		<b>0.723</b>		<b>0.604</b>
(c) Entire sample					
Case	Late-type	×	Early-type	=	Bijective
Sample size	73.2 per cent		23.9 per cent		
Sérsic index	0.879		0.636		0.559
$(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$	0.88		0.616		0.542
$(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$	<b>0.881</b>		0.613		0.54
Rolling cut	0.844		<b>0.722</b>	0.61	<b>0.61</b>

Table 5 shows the percentage of galaxies that have been correctly classified as early or late type according to our visual classification and the overall likelihood that a galaxy is correctly identified as either early or late type. We have divided our sample into high- and low-mass galaxies using the mass limit established for a volume-limited sample (i.e. low-mass galaxies have masses of  $\mathcal{M}_* < \mathcal{M}_{\text{lim}} = 10^{9.4} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ). This allows us to better quantify which separator performs best and at which mass range the most problems are encountered.

On the basis that we want the most reliable selection for a sample of morphological late-type galaxies, we find that the  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour cut performs the best at higher masses (Tables 5b, c) and the Sérsic index performs best at low masses (Table 5a). The most reliable early-type selection is given by the rolling cut for higher

masses (Tables 5b, c) and the  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour at low masses (Table 5a). The rolling cut failed at the low masses due to low number statistics. Since, by definition, the rolling cut maximizes the bijective probability of the galaxies being correctly identified as early or late type (in terms of morphology), it is biased towards the higher mass galaxies where most ellipticals can be correctly identified. Hence out of the 35 low-mass galaxies identified as early type using the rolling cut none of them are found to be elliptical galaxies. We find that a Sérsic-index selection is the least reliable selection that we have considered for discriminating between morphological early- and late-type galaxies. The inspection of the low-mass ( $\mathcal{M}_* < \mathcal{M}_{\text{lim}} = 10^{9.4} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ ) cross-scatter seen in the early-type sample using the Sérsic index cut shows that these galaxies are predominantly blue in colour (i.e.  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}} < 1.5$ ), have a median size  $R_e \sim 1.2$  kpc and have comparably low Sérsic indices (that is 53 per cent have a Sérsic index  $n < 3$  as opposed to only 23 per cent for the entire early-type sample) hence most of this population was likely missed in the S03 analysis.

Consequently, the low-mass galaxies which are moved into our early-type sample by the Sérsic index cut cause a flattening in the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  distribution. This flattening is not unlike the that seen for the elliptical galaxies but should not be confused with it since in the low-mass cross-scatter is predominantly made up of morphological late-type galaxies. The flattening of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fit could become even more significant when using other (less robust) fitting routines or further expanding the low-mass end of the data set. We advise caution when considering the Sérsic index to split a data set into early and late types especially if the early-type galaxies are of particular interest and low-mass galaxies are included.

Even using our simple morphological classification of elliptical and non-elliptical to distinguish the early- and late-type galaxies, we can see a correlation with colour and Sérsic index, but they are by no means synonymous with the morphological classification. Using generic/rigid separators to divide the galaxy population into early and late types should be used with caution and most importantly wherever possible the same separation schemes should be compared. If morphological information is unavailable both a division by dust corrected colour or a combined Sérsic and colour division are good alternatives to separate the early- and late-type galaxies. We find that our  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour performs slightly better than our  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour. However, this is likely an effect of the poorer imaging quality in the  $u$  band which translates to a slightly less reliable  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour. Overall, the Sérsic index is the least desirable separator, especially if the sample extends to lower masses (see Fig. 2).

In addition to the various population separators, we have analysed the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in 10 imaging bands,  $ugrizZYJHK_s$ . Fitting in each band is done for all five population separators using the fitting routines as described for the  $r$ -band data in Section 3. This is important for various reasons such as the change in population make-up when using non-morphological early-/late-type cuts. The most noticeable effect is the observed change in galaxy size with wavelength (La Barbera et al. 2010; Kelvin et al. 2012; Häussler et al. 2013; van der Wel et al. 2014; Vulcani et al. 2014), which could be caused by dust attenuation and/or the inside-out growth of galaxies which causes different stellar populations to be observed at different wavelengths and hence is an effect of both a change in colour as well as Sérsic index. This effect will also be important when comparing to high-redshift data due to the shift in rest-frame wavelength. It is therefore imperative to take the change in size, as well as the population make-up due to colour and Sérsic index changes, into account when studying the growth of galaxies.

Finally, we have studied the size–wavelength dependence using the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation fits to the *grizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>* for early and late types as classified by their visual morphologies. We confirm the presence of a size–wavelength dependence for both early- and late-type galaxies. However, we find that the previously reported size drop of 38 per cent for early types (Kelvin et al. 2012) has likely been an overestimation which can be attributed to the limiting NIR imaging data quality. In our analysis, we have used VIKING ZYJHK<sub>s</sub> instead of UKIDSS YJHK band imaging data and find that late-type galaxies experience an average size drop of  $\sim 14$  per cent and early-type galaxies a size drop of  $\sim 12$  per cent, much less than previously reported. It is also interesting to note that the observed change in galaxy size with wavelength might depend on the mass-range probed. However, this trend needs further investigation and might actually depend on the (imaging) quality of the data.

In this paper, we have presented the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for local galaxies in 10 imaging bands, *ugrizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>*, using five different early-/late-type separators to split the galaxy population. This extensive collection of various  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations should allow for the convenient comparison of our local  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation with other local relations as well as high-redshift relations using the same rest-frame wavelength population separation criteria.

In future work, we will expand our analysis to look in more detail at discs, spheroids and galaxy components. The study of the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation by galaxy type and component will lay the foundations for more thorough comparisons with intermediate- to high-redshift data. For example, it has been put forward that compact high-redshift galaxies are actually the cores of modern-day galaxies (see e.g. Driver et al. 2013; Dullo & Graham 2013). To confirm this, it is necessary to establish a robust  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations of local galaxy components for comparison. Additionally, we can further test evolutionary models by studying the connection between angular momentum and galaxy size, more specifically we will study the mass–spin–morphology relation using the disc  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation of galaxies.

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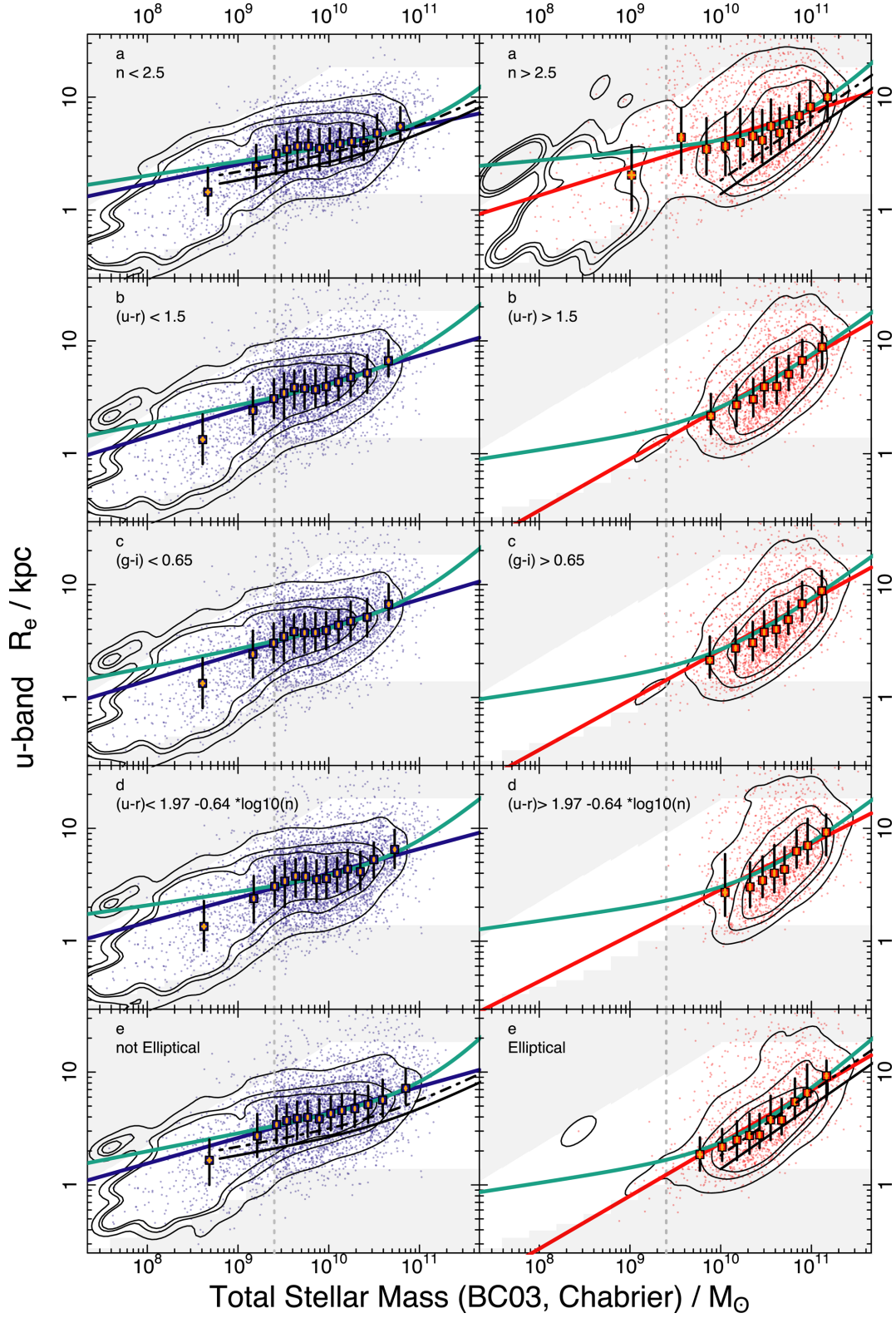
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## APPENDIX A: THE SDSS *UGIZ* AND VIKING *ZYJHK<sub>s</sub>* $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$ RELATIONS

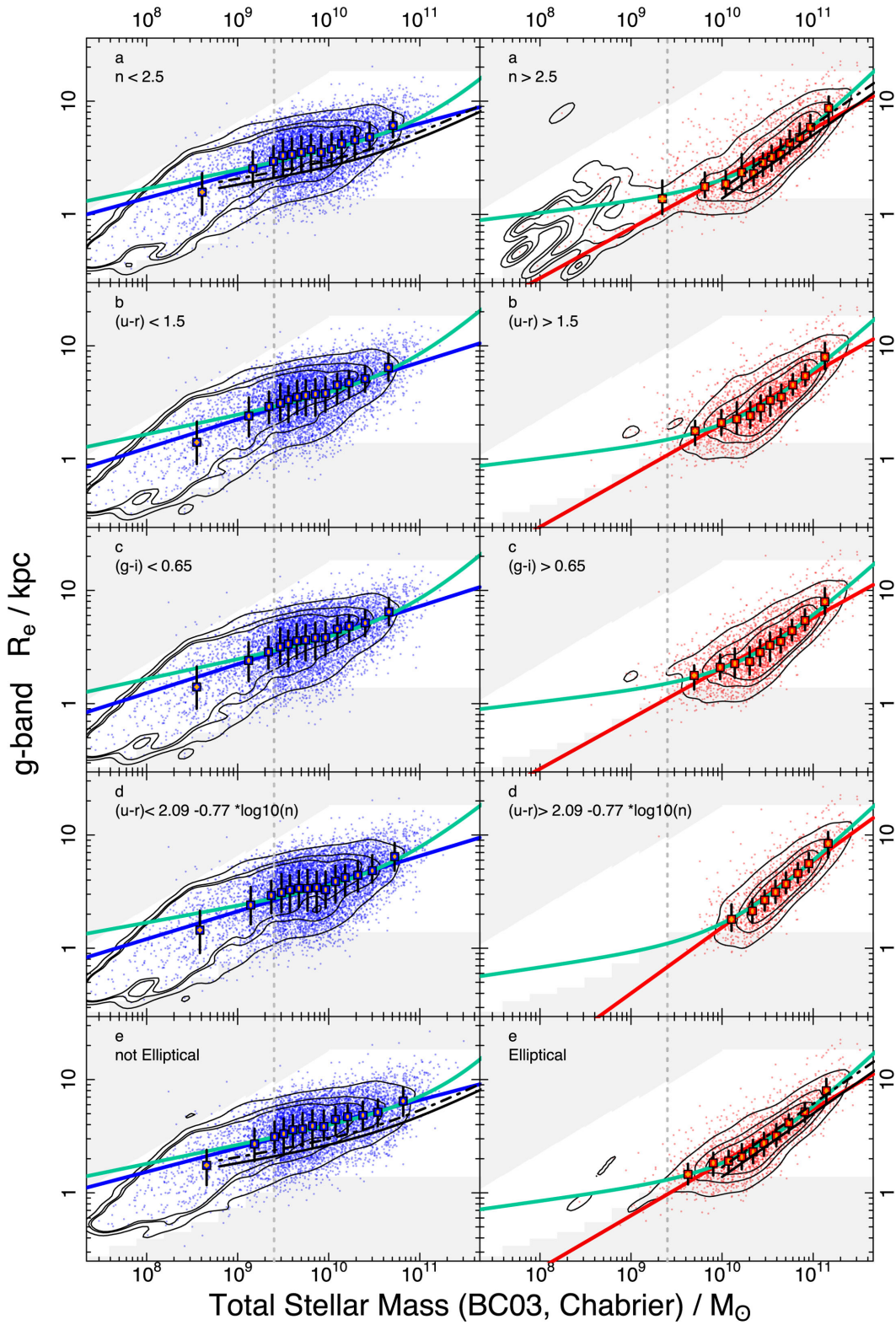
We have calculated the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation in 10 available imaging bands. The *r*-band relations for a Sérsic index cut, two colour cuts, a combined Sérsic index and colour cut as well as a morphologically classified sample were shown in the main part of the paper. Here, we present the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations for the additional nine bands *ugizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>*. The data were analysed in the same way as outlined for the *r*-band data. We exclude outliers and bad fits in each band individually in addition we also remove galaxies with unrealistic fitting parameters which leads to varying sample sizes. However, after implementing the staggered volume-limited sample in each band the final sample sizes, with the exception of the *u* band, are comparable with each other. The number of ‘good-fit’ galaxies and the staggered volume-limited sample size for each band can be found in Table 1, and Tables 2 and 3 show the resulting fitting parameters to equations (2) and (3) for the late and early types, respectively. The following nine plots are equivalent to the *r*-band plot presented in the main part of the paper and show the  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relations for *ugizZYJHK<sub>s</sub>* late types (left-hand panels, blue) and early-types (right-hand panels, red) divided from top to bottom panel by

- (i) the Sérsic index,
- (ii) the rest-frame ( $u - r$ ) colour,
- (iii) the rest-frame ( $g - i$ ) colour,
- (iv) a combined ( $u - r$ )<sub>stars</sub> colour–Sérsic index cut and
- (v) the visual galaxy morphology.





**Figure A1.** The  $u$ -band  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for late and early types – left- and right-hand side, respectively. We are using (a) the Sérsic index, (b) the  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour, (c) the  $(g - i)_{\text{stars}}$  colour, (d) a combination of Sérsic index and  $(u - r)_{\text{stars}}$  colour and (e) the visual morphology to divide the populations as described in the paper. Fitting parameters can be found in Tables 2 and 3.



**Figure A2.** The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the g band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.

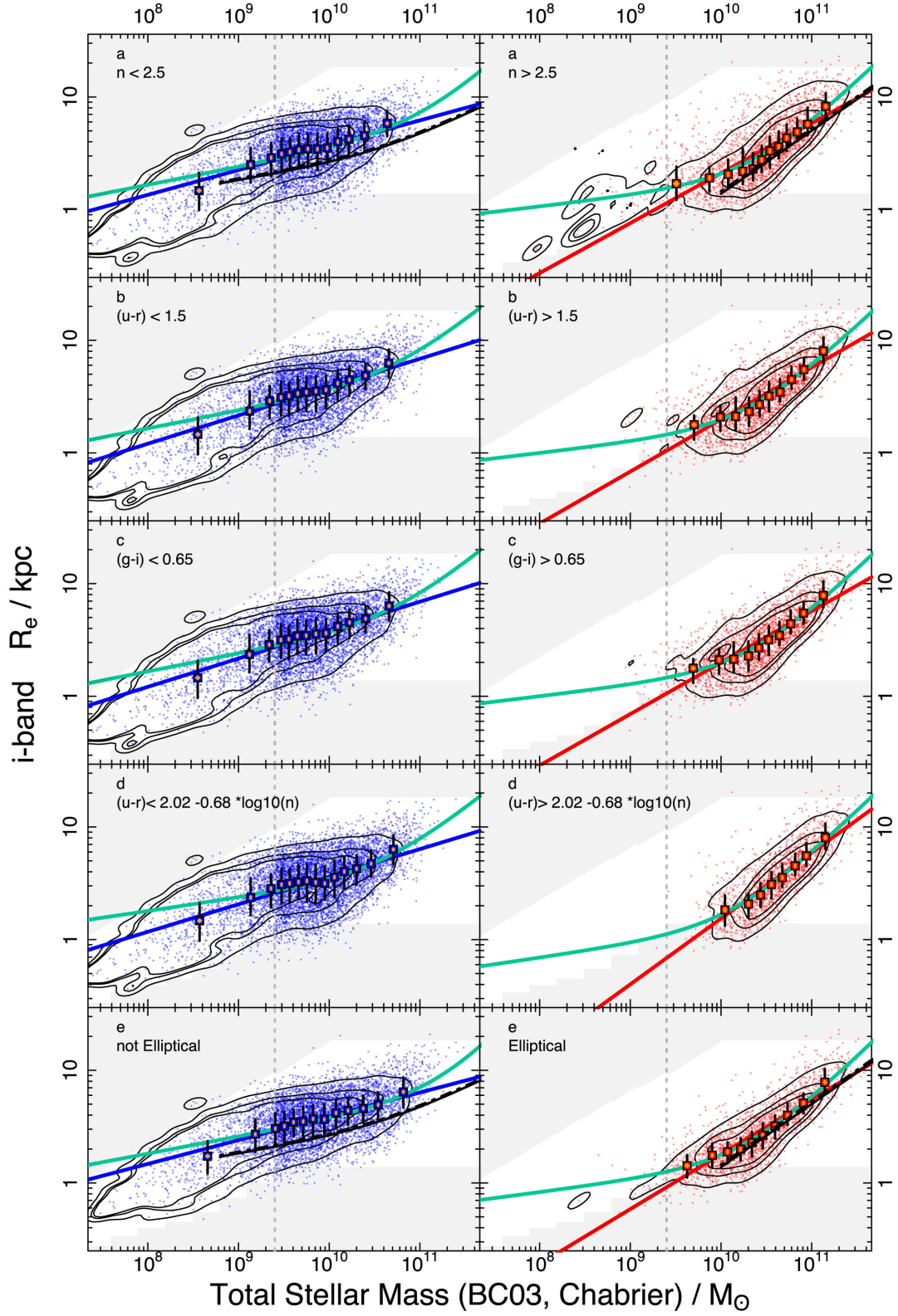
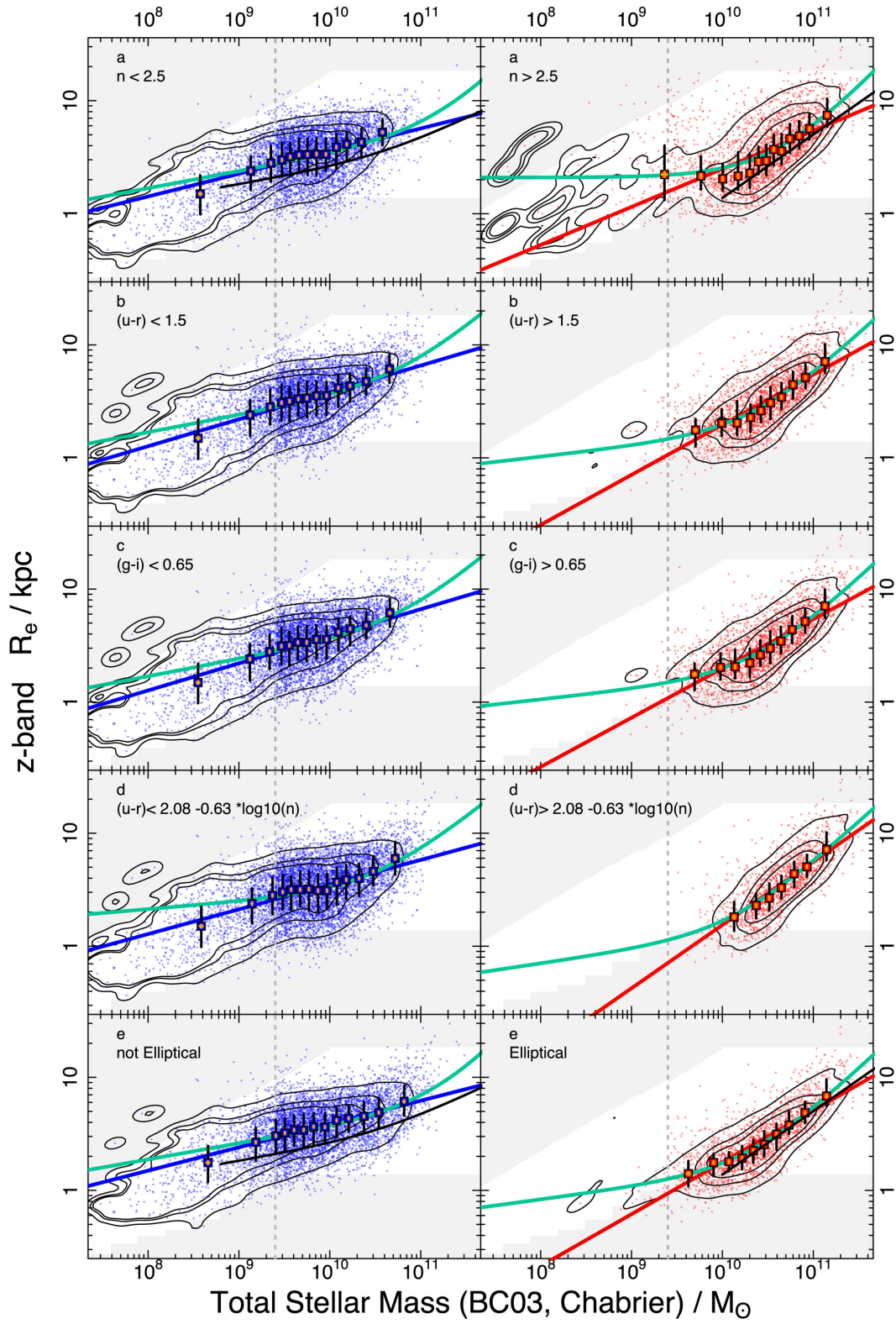


Figure A3. The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the  $i$  band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.





**Figure A4.** The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the  $z$  band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.

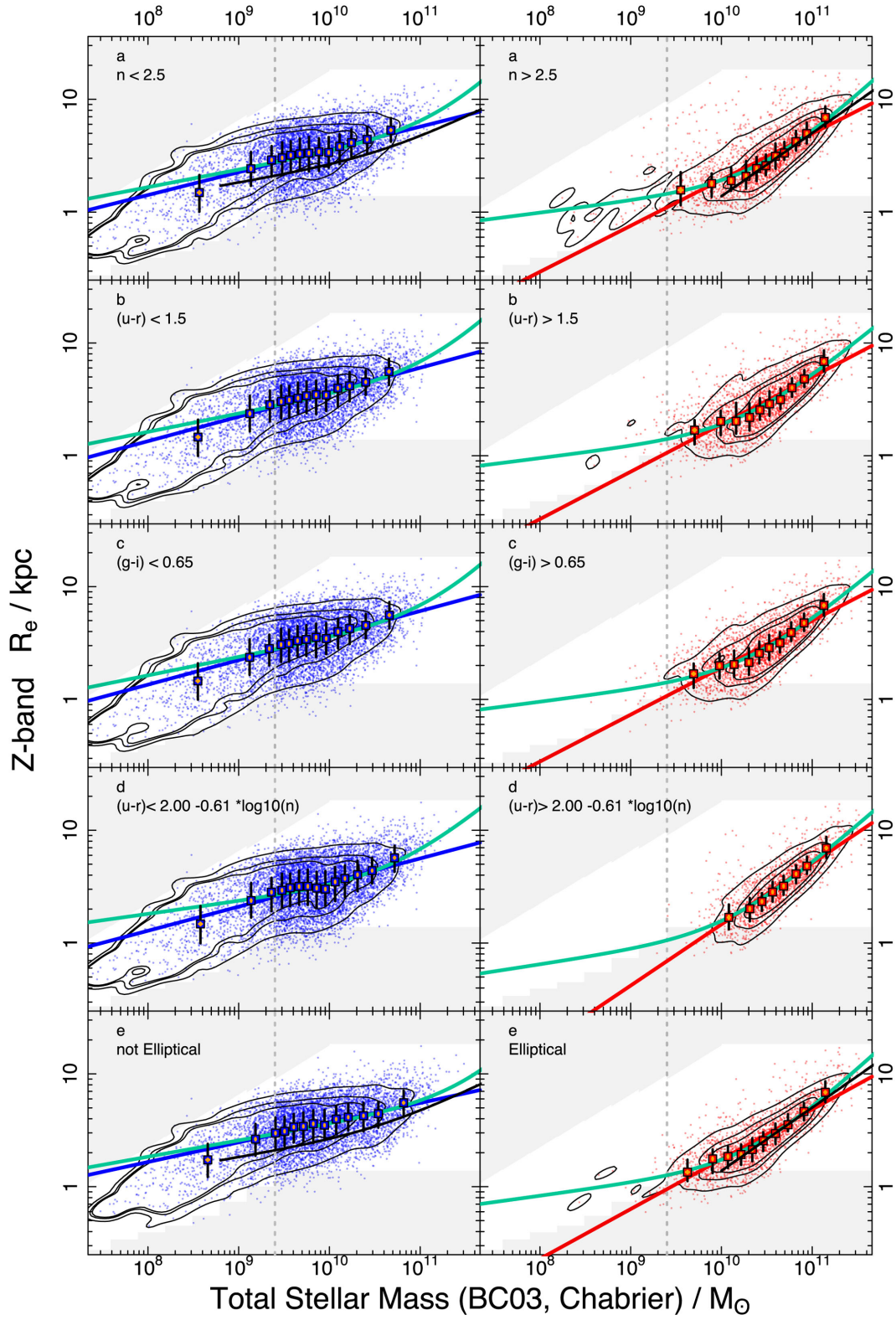
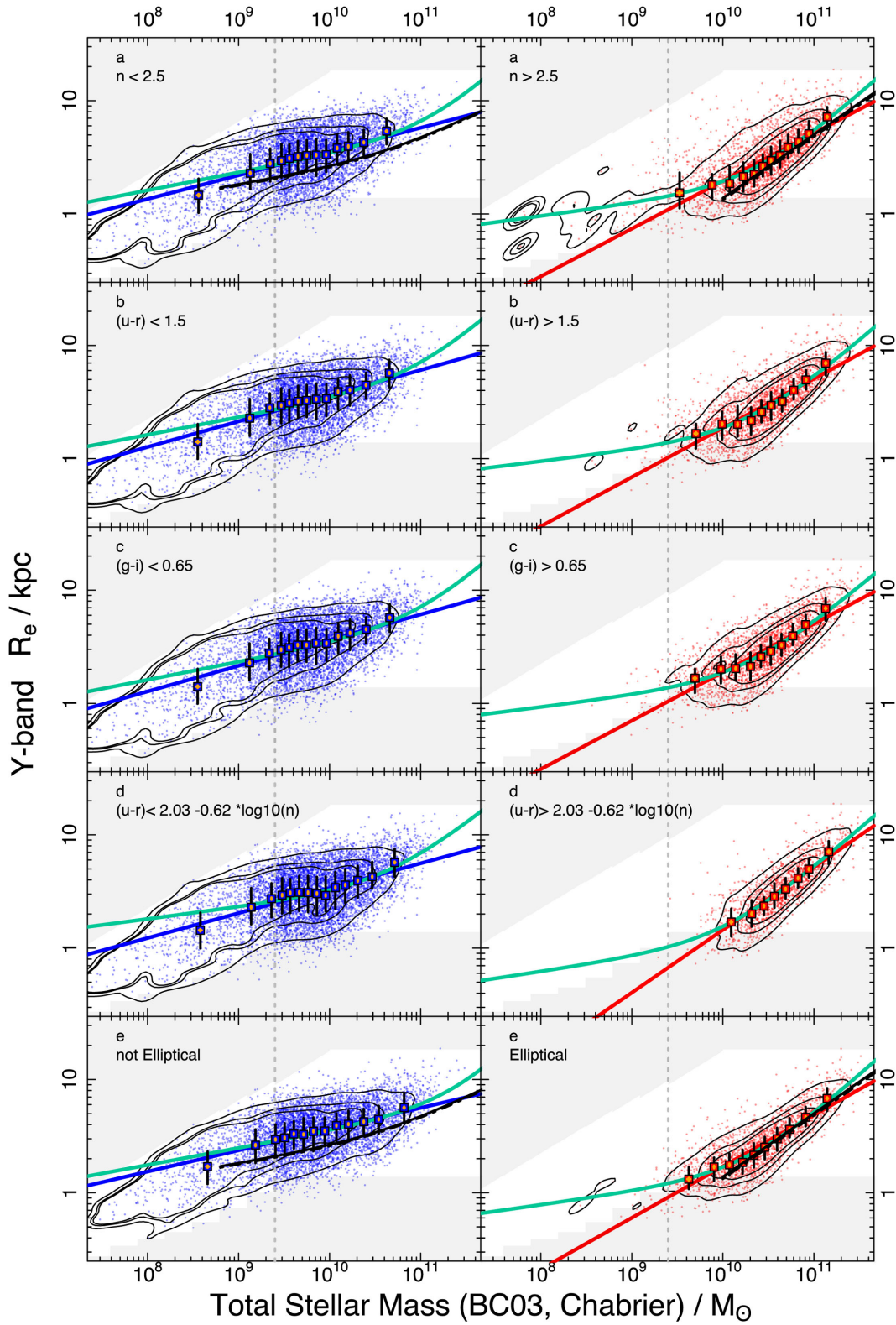


Figure A5. The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the VIKING Z band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.





**Figure A6.** The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the Y band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.

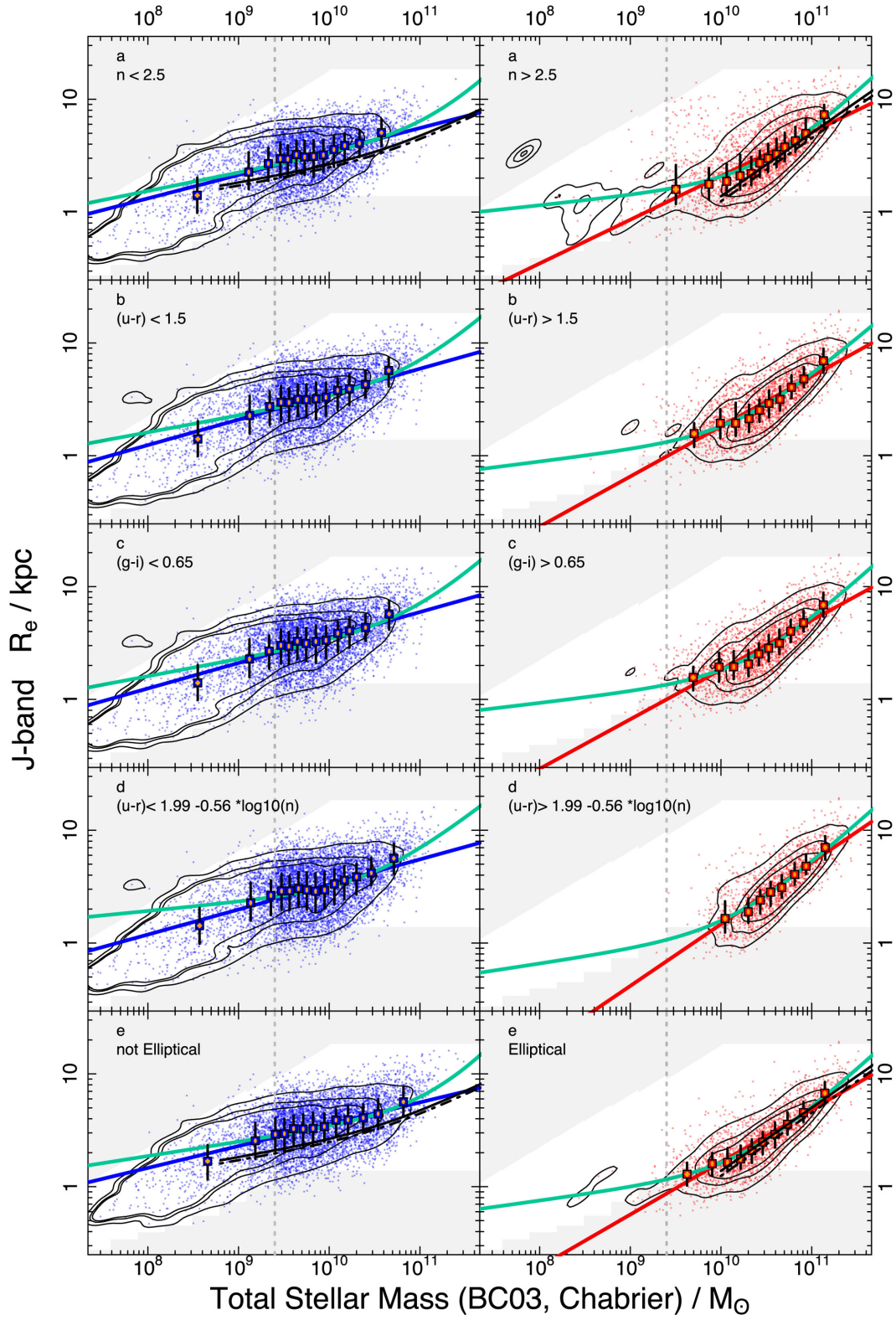
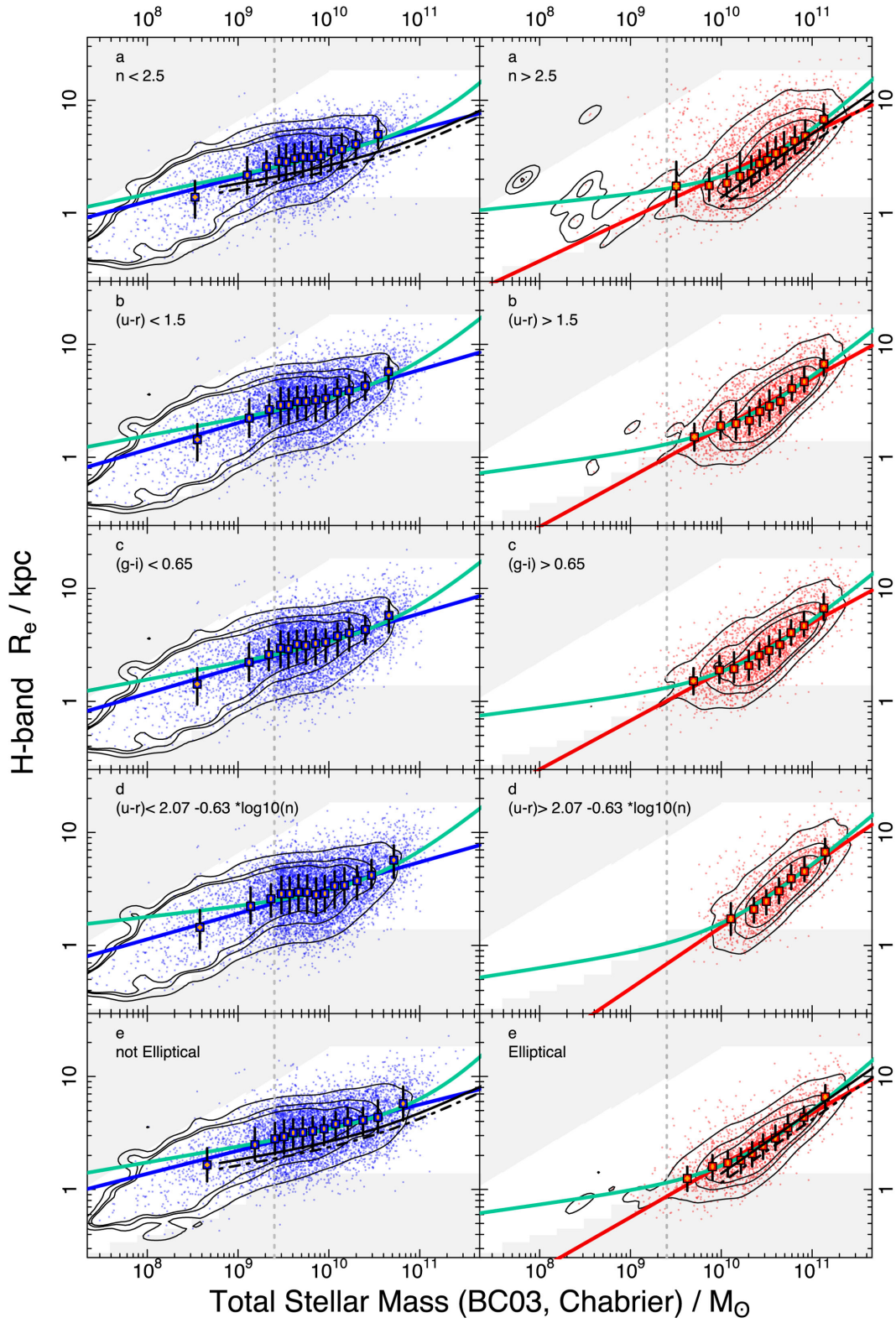
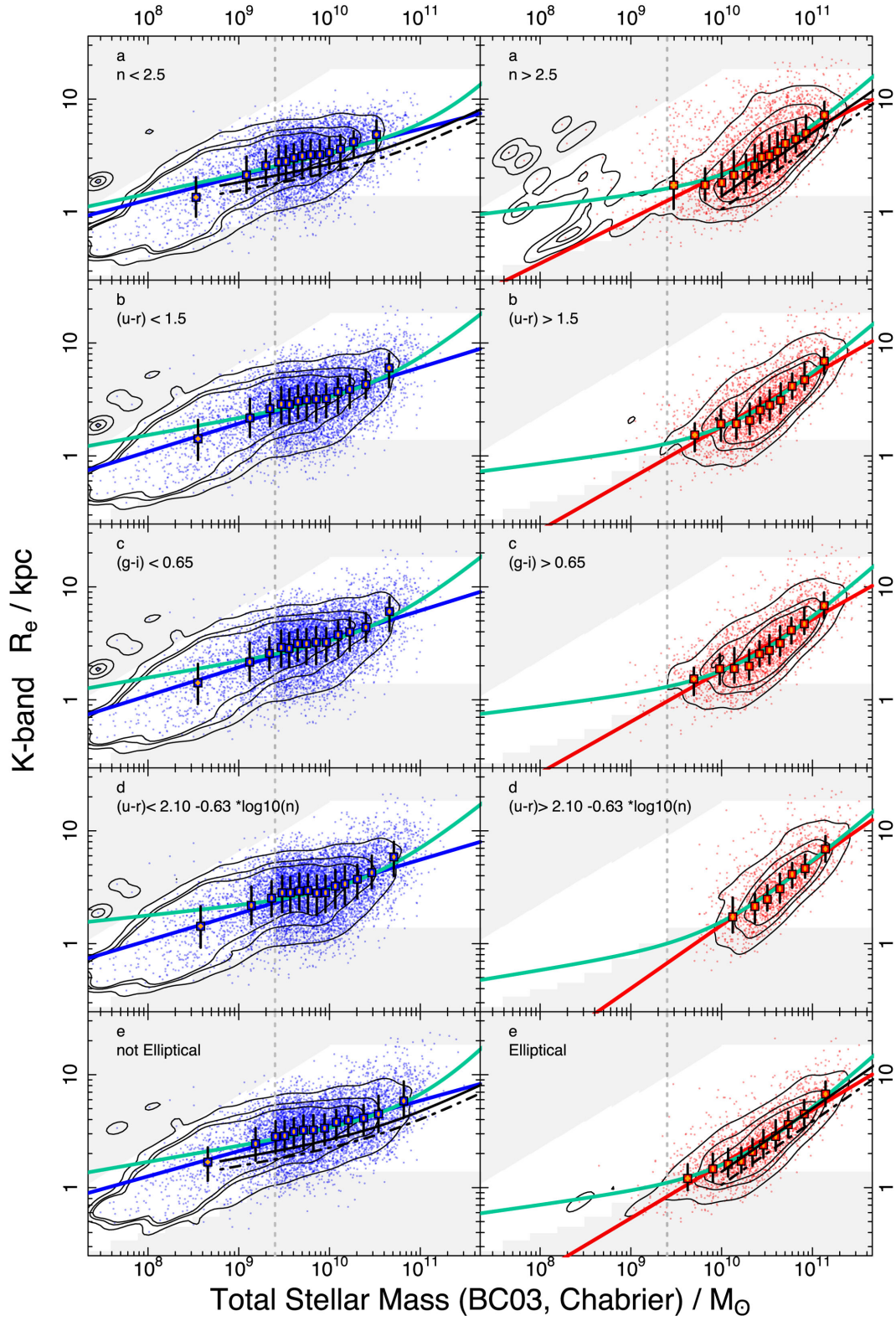


Figure A7. The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the J band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.



**Figure A8.** The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the  $H$  band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.





**Figure A9.** The  $\mathcal{M}_* - R_e$  relation for the  $K$  band with the panels and fits as in Fig. A1.



**APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  RELATIONS**

In high-redshift studies it becomes more difficult to divide the sampled galaxies into the conventional early and late types. To allow a more direct comparison to high-redshift data, we have fit the local  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation using equation (2) to the entire sample without any early-/ late-type division. The results for all 10 imaging bands can be found in Table B1.

**Table B1.**  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation fitting parameters to equation (2) for the entire sample without any early-/ late-type division.

Band	$a$ ( $10^{-2}$ )	$b$
<i>u</i>	$1.79 \pm 0.17$	$0.23 \pm 0.02$
<i>g</i>	$3.43 \pm 0.35$	$0.20 \pm 0.01$
<i>r</i>	$4.04 \pm 0.42$	$0.19 \pm 0.01$
<i>i</i>	$2.86 \pm 0.27$	$0.21 \pm 0.01$
<i>z</i>	$4.02 \pm 0.42$	$0.19 \pm 0.01$
<i>Z</i>	$5.99 \pm 0.77$	$0.17 \pm 0.01$
<i>Y</i>	$4.73 \pm 0.51$	$0.18 \pm 0.01$
<i>J</i>	$4.08 \pm 0.44$	$0.19 \pm 0.01$
<i>H</i>	$3.59 \pm 0.37$	$0.19 \pm 0.01$
<i>K</i>	$2.43 \pm 0.22$	$0.21 \pm 0.01$

**Table B2.**  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation fitting parameters to equation (2) for high-mass morphological late- and early- type galaxies with  $\mathcal{M}_* > 2.5 \times 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$  and  $\mathcal{M}_* > 2 \times 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ , respectively.

Late-types		
Band	$a$ ( $10^{-2}$ )	$b$
<i>g</i>	$3.32 \pm 0.44$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$
<i>r</i>	$4.02 \pm 0.57$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$
<i>i</i>	$3.04 \pm 0.40$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$
<i>z</i>	$3.45 \pm 0.47$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$
<i>Z</i>	$7.27 \pm 1.25$	$0.17 \pm 0.02$
<i>Y</i>	$4.98 \pm 0.75$	$0.19 \pm 0.02$
<i>J</i>	$4.27 \pm 0.61$	$0.19 \pm 0.02$
<i>H</i>	$3.23 \pm 0.45$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$
<i>K</i>	$2.07 \pm 0.25$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$
Early-types		
Band	$a$ ( $10^{-6}$ )	$b$
<i>g</i>	$0.63 \pm 0.05$	$0.63 \pm 0.03$
<i>r</i>	$0.79 \pm 0.06$	$0.62 \pm 0.03$
<i>i</i>	$0.35 \pm 0.03$	$0.66 \pm 0.03$
<i>z</i>	$0.85 \pm 0.07$	$0.62 \pm 0.03$
<i>Z</i>	$1.36 \pm 0.12$	$0.60 \pm 0.03$
<i>Y</i>	$1.25 \pm 0.11$	$0.60 \pm 0.03$
<i>J</i>	$0.96 \pm 0.08$	$0.61 \pm 0.03$
<i>H</i>	$1.46 \pm 0.13$	$0.59 \pm 0.03$
<i>K</i>	$0.92 \pm 0.08$	$0.61 \pm 0.03$

In addition, in many cases (especially at higher redshifts) only high-mass data are available to establish an  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation. In the case of the early-type galaxies, this exclusion of low-mass data can lead to a significant change in the slope of the  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation (since a single-power law is sufficient to describe the data). To allow for easier comparison to these high-mass (and/ or high- $z$ ) data, we have analysed the  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation of our high-mass early-types. For this, we fit the  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation to elliptical galaxies with masses  $\mathcal{M}_* > 2 \times 10^{10} \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . This is the average transition mass  $\mathcal{M}_0$  according to our morphology cut ( $g$ – $K_s$  band, see Table 3) and also agrees with the limit imposed by van der Wel et al. (2014) to avoid the flattening of the early-type relation.

We also set up a high-mass sample for the ‘non-elliptical’ galaxies. For this, we set the lower mass limit to the mass limit of our colour unbiased volume-limited sample,  $\mathcal{M}_* > 2.5 \times 10^9 \mathcal{M}_\odot$ . Not unsurprisingly the results of the  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation fit remain mostly unchanged. This is in good agreement with our previous observation that the late-type  $\mathcal{M}_*$ – $R_e$  relation is fairly robust to changes in the population set up. The resulting fitting parameters can be found in Table B2.

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